Rota gov't agencies, private businesses recognized by PSS co-op program. PAGE 2
'We shouldn't shy away from markets that can easily be tapped into.' PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

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1-2 typhoons possible before end of the year

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released its Western North Pacific tropical cyclone outlook for the remainder of 2024 and forecasts below normal activity for the Marianas and the rest of Micronesia.

See TYPHOONS on Page 4

TINIAN STUDENTS ARE 'TOURISTS FOR A DAY'

MVA

TINIAN—Third grade students of Tinian Elementary School on Tinian learn firsthand about tourism as "Tourists for a Day" on May 23, 2024. Tourific Tinian's tour guide and operator Deborah Fleming, standing right, teaches during a historic sites tour organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority as part of Marianas Tourism Month.

TINIAN—Third grade students of Tinian Elementary School on Tinian learn firsthand about tourism as "Tourists for a Day" on May 23, 2024. As part of their immersion experience, the students planted trees at the World War II historic Suicide Cliff site.

Palacios supports inclusion of PH to Guam/CNMI visa waiver program

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios says his administration supports the Philippine House of Representatives' recent efforts to include the Philippines in the list of countries that are part of the Guam/CNMI visa waiver program.

Palacios

In a comment from Palacios, he enthusiastically shared his support for the Philippine House of Representatives' recently passed house resolution that would request the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs to ask U.S President Joseph Biden

See WAIVER on Page 4

At least 2,000 feared dead in PNG landslide

AP

In this image supplied by the International Organization for Migration, villagers search amongst the debris from a landslide in the village of Yambali in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, Monday, May 27, 2024.

BANGKOK (AP)— The Papua New Guinea government said more than 2,000 people are believed to have been buried alive in a landslide in the South Pacific island nation, after the side of

See DEAD on Page 4

3 casino commissioners set to discuss IPI's bankruptcy petition

» **CCC board to hold monthly meeting without commissioners representing Tinian, Rota**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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CORRESPONDENT

The remaining three Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioners are expected to discuss tomorrow, Thursday, an update of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition.

CCC board chair Edward C.

See IPI on Page 4

DeLeon Guerrero

INSIDE

NATION

A series of powerful storms swept over the central and southern U.S. over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, killing at least 22 people.

PAGE 10

WORLD

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that a "tragic mistake" was made in an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza city of Rafah that set fire to a camp housing displaced Palestinians.

PAGE 10

LIFE & STYLE

Sean Baker's "Anora," a comic but devastating Brooklyn odyssey about a sex worker who marries the son of a wealthy Russian oligarch, won the Cannes Film Festival's top award, the Palme d'Or.

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Local

Rota gov't agencies, private businesses recognized by PSS co-op program

ROTA—The Public School System's Cooperative Education Program wrapped up its district-wide end-of-year partner appreciation event with Rota on May 20, and, for this year, the municipality has once again delivered its highest number of government and private sector partners.

A total of 24 private and government businesses were honored by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, co-op program coordinator Brandon Nicholas, and Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School principal Annette Calvo in an appreciation ceremony held at Puesto Grill II in Songsong village.

The co-op program with Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School is celebrating its fourth-year implementation on Rota. Over 60 high school students have participated in the internship program.

"We are here because we are celebrating the incredible partnership that we have with the local government offices and private businesses who have stepped up for the last four years in helping our high school students prepare for their after-high school choices," said Camacho.

PSS

Some of the owners and representatives of the 24 Rota government and private businesses and their more than 60 high school interns are joined by Education Commissioner Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, Cooperative Education Program coordinator Brandon Nicholas, and principal Annette Calvo.

Camacho also recognized the leadership of RHI for the continued success of the Cooperative Education Program's student interns program, which was implemented in 2020.

"I want to thank principal Annette Calvo for great leadership in keeping this program alive in Rota," the education chief added.

Camacho, Calvo, and Nicholas presented the Rota co-op program's partners with certificates. Honored as partners were: 3Kings Market and Harvest, Ace Hardware Rota, Anne's Convenient Store, Bayview Hotel, Budget Rent-A-Car, DCCA Historical Preservation Office-Rota, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services-Rota, Department of Fish and Wildlife-Rota, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School, Hago Lamon, Lagua Enterprises, Lucy's Day Care, Luta Green Gold, Marianas Visitors Authority-Rota, MGS Enterprises, OB Salon, Pizzaria Bar & Grill, RNA Crafts Designs, Rota Health Center, Rota Mayor's Office, Sasanhaya Service Station, Sinapalo Elementary School, Sinapalo Safeway, and TEA's Enterprises.

'Thank you, mentors'

The interns shared their testimonials about the program.

"We learned how it is important to communicate and help with customers," said student Malcolm Atalig of his internship with Budget Rent-A-Car. "Thank you for mentoring us."

"What I learned there is how the (CNMI government) consists of different offices and parts. I now know how big the government is here and how it operates… and my internship was part of a bigger picture in the (operation and services),' said student, John, of his DCCA-Historic Preservation internship.

For a DFEMS-Rota intern, "It's not just about fighting fire but saving lives."

"We were able to apply teamwork, and become a better version of ourselves," the intern added.

The RHI library aide intern learned how "the co-op program helped me assume duties in an environment I didn't know I could learn. It helped me with my future."

"I like little kids and my internship with Lucy's Day Care helps me learn things about proper care at an early (period of a child)," said another student.

For the interns of MVA-Rota, they said, "It's about the tourism industry".

For the private business, MGS, the four interns said it helped them learn about food production.

"From sourcing ingredients to quality control, everything matters. It's a dynamic industry where innovation and adoption are key to staying competitive," the four students said.

They added, "Our mentors taught us: no matter how much it takes, quality matters more than quantity. Like our mentors say: if you won't eat it, don't sell it."

An intern for Pizzaria Bar and Grill learned beyond taking food orders. "I developed skills involving multitasking, critical thinking, problem-solving and being respectful to every customer no matter the situation," the intern shares.

'Beyond high school'

Camacho said the huge number of high school students shows that these students "are already thinking beyond high school" and the co-op program "continues to succeed in the last four years by supporting Rota high school students' after-high school choices."

"You have been developed and supported from the moment you received proper education. Now, in high school and part of the co-op program, the program will guide you on your next step: some of you here are in middle school, and you'll be thinking about what to do in high school, and some of you are seniors, and this will guide you in your decision-making process after graduation," Camacho said in his remarks.

"Please know that your Public School System will continue to support you, the children of Rota, and the CNMI, as a whole. For us, your education leaders and advocates, we have the reason, the mindset and the support system to succeed in serving and giving you, our students, every opportunity to learn and succeed."

Camacho also particularly noted that this batch of interns are "Gen Z" students.

"You have a greater advantage in succeeding because you were born in this digital era. But how do you achieve success? By virtue of learning (and using every technology made available to you) … and as you walk that path, you are gaining wisdom and knowledge," adds the education chief.

'Future workforce'

The co-op program coordinator acknowledged that despite the challenges faced by the Rota economy, the local businesses and government offices on the island "accepted and trained students because they believe they are the future workforce."

"Companies and agencies here today, we wish to extend our deepest sense of gratitude to you all for allowing our students to learn from each one of you. I'd be preaching to the choir if I didn't share that life here in Rota is a lot different from most places, and even full-time work is hard to come by. You open your doors so that our students can understand the importance of hard work and show how much you love, care and respect your island," Nicholas said in his remarks.

He added, "We thank you for keeping open so that people from the village can buy much needed groceries, provide life-saving care as highly trained first responders, a safe place to stay for people that are visiting or may be returning home for a short visit and the many other businesses that provide goods and services to the entire island."

"Despite the many difficulties you all face while trying to operate your business, you still found time to train the future of our workforce and give the youth of Rota an opportunity to understand what real work looks and feels like, as they will soon do this in their adult lives. Today is all about you, and we hope you continue to partner with us." ***(PR)***

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Huang, Chen lead ACS Class of 2024

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Agape Christian School's eighth grade class sings a special worship song during their promotion last Friday at their school's campus in Gualo Rai.

Dozens of family members and friends gathered to witness the graduation of the Agape Christian School Class of 2024 last Friday at the school's campus in Gualo Rai.

It culminated in the graduation of 31 students—14 high school and 17 middle school—to the next chapter of their lives.

Leading the graduating high school class were valedictorian Yilin "Elim" Huang and salutatorian Xu "Stephen" Chen. Huang will pursue her major in nursing at Bob Jones University in South Carolina, while Chen is on his way to the Pensacola Christian College in Florida and will major in cyber security.

Both Chen and Huang expressed their appreciation to God, family, and their teachers and peers. During her remarks Huang said, "As this year's valedictorian, I am honored to stand here and share my gratitude with everyone of the amazing people who have helped bring me to this position. I come from a one-child family. I tried repeatedly to be perfect and excellent in everything I do. This also resulted in me not knowing how to communicate with people. But here my life is surrounded with great partners and teammates. I used to see the flaws in a person, but not anymore."

CHRYSTAL MARINO

The Agape Christian School's graduating Class of 2024 blesses their peers and families gathered with a song last Friday at the school's campus in Gualo Rai.

She shared her deepest thanks to her parents, family friends, teachers, school faculty, pastors, and leaders of ACS.

"You are the ones who have shown me God's mercy and grace in time of hardship. You are the ones who have taught me the righteousness of God and taught me the right thing for my wrongdoing. You are the ones who leave us a great example of God's humble servant that I always want to follow. Thank you again, of course, glory to God."

Leading the middle school promotion was Reyviel Van Labao Escarlan and Lang "Steve" Yang.

The two young men also shared their experiences at the school and hopes for the future.

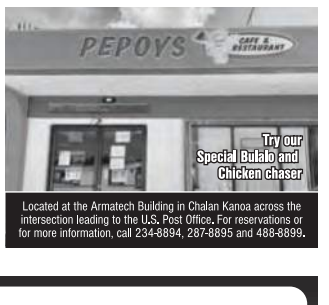
"All of us would not be here today if it weren't for all of our supportive teachers, friends, and families. Class of 2024, all of us are very smart, gifted, and talented in our own special way. And I am excited to see all of you go far in life. I would like to thank my parents for sending me to this school, where I have learned and grown so much," said Escarlan.

Guam's Harvest Baptist Church and Christian Academy lead pastor Gary Walton served as commencement speaker.

During his remarks he reminded the class the importance of not only their life choices, but putting God first, admonishing them to remember the principles they were taught, and held true and to keep them wherever they are in life.

He reminded them that they will have failures in life but to always trust in God.

"You will never regret giving God first place in your life. So, Class of 2024 as you graduate, you are embarking on a new journey, and I'm very excited for you. The road of your life is stretched out in front of you, but you are going to have to make some choices and some will be tough choices, but here's the promise of God if you will trust God and lean on His word and give God first choice, then he will direct your path."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PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT EFFECTIVE JUNE 01, 2024 **MIN CORPORATION** IS OFFICIALLY CLOSED FOR BUSINESS

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PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

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THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS **(IFB-008-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the Trial Division of the Palau Supreme Court is currently scheduling hearings on pending land claims in Ngarchelong, Palau. The cases with pending claims are as follows:

Civil Action No. 23-114
Civil Action No. 23-120
Civil Action No. 23-115
Civil Action No. 23-121
Civil Action No. 23-116
Civil Action No. 23-122
Civil Action No. 23-117
Civil Action No. 23-123
Civil Action No. 23-118
Civil Action No. 23-124
Civil Action No. 23-119

The following individuals are listed as Claimants:

- **Susana Flores Delos Reyes aka Susana Delos Reyes Mendiola**
- **Lawrence J. Aflague, Jr.**
- **Eugenia Flores James aka Eugenia James Aflague**
- **Gabriel Borja**
- **Frank Flores**
- **Frederica Flores Santos**
- **Maccarthy John Borja**
- **Atanacio Borja**
- **Pedro Tudela Borja, Jr.**
- **Teresa D. Laguana**

These Claimants or their children, heirs, descendants, or other authorized representatives are requested to contact the Clerk of Courts to update their contact information. This is necessary to facilitate calendaring of hearings and addressing any logistical arrangements, such as attending hearings virtually through remote court proceedings if they are unable to attend in person.

Allison Idip Sengebau
Palau Supreme Court
P.O. Box 248
Koror, Palau 96940
Tel: (680)488-2607
Mobile: (680) 775-4914
asengebau@palausupremecourt.net

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)

ACCOUNTANT

Delta Management Corporation, which operates 5 Shell Branded Gas Stations and Convenience Stores is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Accountant. Successful applicants will act as the main point of contact between the company and vendors, partners and other external parties, ensuring smooth communication and coordination. Must be proficient with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel and Word programs and be flexible, adaptable and work in a fast-paced environment.

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- Responsible for monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
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ADDRESSING CURRENT CNMI CRISIS AND PALACIOS' STANCE ON CHINA MARKET

'We shouldn't shy away from markets that can easily be tapped into'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Senate President Edith DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) says although diversification is important, due to the current economic crisis, she believes the CNMI shouldn't shy away from accessible markets like China.

Over a week ago, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce held its 2nd Annual Economic Forum where it was discussed that the CNMI needs at least 500,000 tourist arrivals this year to stay afloat. However, based on panelist presentations, the forecast for this year is about 275,000 arrivals (far from the 500,000 needed just to break even).

Because of this, CNMI stakeholders continue to push for an exemption to the current China-U.S. flight cap in hopes of bringing back the China market (which previously made up over 40% of the CNMI's tourist industry).

Meanwhile, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has released a statement reiterating his stance on pivoting away from the CNMI's dependence on China citing geopolitical issues and further diversifying the CNMI's tourism markets.

In an interview with DeLeon Guerrero, she states that because the number of tourist arrivals are far from the needed 500,000 arrivals to keep the CNMI economy in that kind of "safe zone," any market that can bring in tourists should be appreciated.

"The Chinese market isn't new to us, they've been here before, and it's a faster way to attract tourists to bring in necessary revenue for the Commonwealth to gain strong footing while other markets are being developed," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

HSEM to conduct mobile siren testing starting today

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management will be conducting tests of their mobile all-hazard siren system starting from today, May 29, to May 30.

To ensure that its mobile siren system is operational and effective in alerting the public during emergencies, HSEM will be conducting a mobile all-hazard siren test for the next two day.

"This mobile all-hazard siren is a critical component of the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management's emergency preparedness and response strategy, designed to alert residents of a range of potential threats including tsunami warnings, severe weather warnings, wildfire warnings, and air raids warnings," said HSEM.

The test will occur between 9:30am and 2pm and involve the activation of the siren at Pau Pau Beach and Garapan Fishing Base.

Specifically, the mobile sirens will be activated from 9:30am to 11:30am at Pau Pau Beach and 1pm to 2pm at the Garapan Fishing Base to ensure comprehensive coverage and system functionality.

HSEM cautions that the siren will emit a loud, audible tone designed to alert residents. It is expected to be heard both indoors and outdoors within testing areas.

In addition, each mobile siren activation will last for approximately 2 minutes, with multiple activations throughout the testing period

HSEM reminds that residents do not need to take any action during the mobile siren activation and not to be alarmed by the sounds as it is only a test.

DEAD

From page 1

a mountain came down in the early hours of Friday morning when the village of Yambali was asleep.

The settlement is located in a restive and remote area in the interior of the poor, rural nation off the northern coast of Australia, making search and rescue efforts complicated and hazardous.

The government death toll is roughly triple the U.N. estimate of 670 killed. The remains of only six people had been recovered so far.

In a letter seen by The Associated Press to the United Nations resident coordinator dated Sunday, the acting director of Papua New Guinea's National Disaster Center Luseta Laso Mana said the landslide "buried more than 2,000 people alive" and caused "major destruction" at Yambali village in the Enga province.

Estimates of the casualties have varied widely since the disaster occurred, and it was not immediately clear how officials arrived the number of people affected.

Here's a look at some of the challenges:

The village of at least 4,000, but believed to be substantially larger, is in a mountainous and forested part of Papua New Guinea's Enga province. It's located alongside a winding highway to the town of Porgera and a mine that has produced billions of dollars of gold but whose security personnel have been accused by rights groups of abuses.

The highway was covered by the landslide, effectively cutting off Porgera and the other villages past Yambali from the provincial capital of Wabag, some 60 kilometers (35 miles) from where the disaster occurred.

Emergency responders have brought aid in from Wabag, but have had to make the final 200 meters (yards) of the journey by foot over the rubble-covered highway.

Debris 6 to 8 meters (20 to 26 feet) deep covering an area the size of three or four football fields was being cleared exclusively by hand with shovels and picks for more than two days, until an excavator donated by a local builder arrived on Sunday.

Survivors have been hesitant to allow heavy machinery to be used, however, because they do not want the bodies of their relatives harmed, said Serhan Aktoprak, the chief of the U.N. migration agency's mission in Papua New Guinea. The donated excavator was driven away Monday morning, though it's not clear whether that was related to locals' objections or for another reason, he said.

Military engineers with additional heavy equipment are being transported to the disaster scene 400 kilometers (250 miles) from the east coast city of Lae and are expected to arrive Tuesday or Wednesday.

Longtime tribal warfare in Enga province has not relented despite the disaster, meaning that soldiers have had to provide security for the aid convoys heading toward Yambali.

TYPHOONS

From page 1

According to NOAA's tropical cyclone outlook for the rest of 2024, United States-Affiliated Pacific Islands of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, the CNMI, and Guam will likely see below-normal tropical cyclone activity for the remainder of 2024,

NOAA explains that below normal activity is consistent with the expected shift from El Niño to ENSO-Neutral, and then to La Niña, as supported by the latest National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center ENSO Diagnostics Discussion.

"As ENSO-Neutral conditions shift to a La Niña pattern by late summer, this is likely to further result in less regional activity, similar to the 2020-2022 La Niña years. Basin-wide tropical cyclone activity typically shifts eastward in El Niño years, and westward during La Niña years. A westward shift in tropical cyclone activity is predicted to keep tropical cyclone activity below-normal for the Marianas, eastern FSM and the RMI, but normal to below-normal for the ROP and possibly for the western FSM," NOAA states.

Due to the below normal tropical cyclone activity forecasted for the rest of this year, NOAA says the Marianas (including Guam and the CNMI) could see one or two typhoons before the end of the year.

A typhoon is a tropical cyclone that is accompanied by 74 mph maximum sustained winds or more.

In addition, NOAA says the Marianas could see two to four storms before the end of the year.

Storms are classified as systems that carry up to or more than 39 mph maximum sustained winds.

"This outlook is a general guide to the predicted, overall tropical cyclone activity across the USAPI and does not indicate how many of these systems will actually make landfall. However, the outlook does provide a general idea of how many tropical storms and/or typhoons could affect a specific island or a group of islands across Micronesia, with peripheral effects such as strong damaging winds, torrential rainfall, and/or storm surge/inundation," said NOAA.

Although tropical cyclone activity peaks around September-November for many regional locations, NOAA reminds the public that tropical cyclones can occur throughout the year across the western North Pacific.

"Therefore, there is no clearly defined typhoon season. Tropical cyclone activity can fluctuate greatly from year to year, though it only takes one to cause significant impacts. Therefore, we always urge residents, visitors and mariners to maintain preparedness for tropical cyclones year-round," said NOAA.

IPI

From page 1

DeLeon Guerrero set yesterday their regular monthly meeting for tomorrow at 10:30am in the Commission's conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai.

DeLeon Guerrero, vice chair Rafael S. Demapan, and commissioner Mariano Taitano are set to discuss under old business agenda IPI's bankruptcy filing.

Part of the meeting's agenda is an executive session, in which the commissioners are also going to consult with their legal counsel about IPI's Chapter 11 (reorganization) and Chapter 7 (liquidation).

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry, Demapan said yesterday that although there are no commissioners representing Tinian and Rota, with three commissioners representing Saipan constitute a quorum.

The terms of commissioners Ramon M. Dela Cruz of Tinian and Martin Mendiola of Rota, expired last April 30. As of yesterday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has yet to nominate new commissioners from Tinian and Rota.

Under the meeting's new business, the commissioners are also going to talk about Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider's (R-Tinian) Senate Local Bill No. 23-05, which seeks to grant internet gaming licenses on Tinian for a period not to exceed 20 years.

The legislation proposes to amend the Commonwealth Code to provide for regulatorily compliant internet gaming.

WAIVER

From page 1

to authorize the country's inclusion to the Guam/CNMI visa waiver program.

"We certainly support the resolution. It's a Guam and CNMI effort. There's a lot of people from the Philippines, Filipino citizens and even U.S citizens that live in the Philippines, who may want to go on a getaway for a few days. We hope we can work it out with the United States government and provide a visa-free arrangement [to Guam and the CNMI] for Philippine nationals," he said.

Palacios has expressed multiple times before the CNMI's need to diversify its tourism industry by enticing new markets to visit the islands.

In a previous statement from the Hotel Association of the NMI, it shares that through the possible inclusion of Philippines to Guam/CNMI visa waiver program, there is a possibility of further diversifying the CNMI's tourism industry while possibly bringing in over 400,000 new visitors.

"We support this as it brings in additional tourists and helps with the recovery of the tourism industry of NMI. The population of the Philippines is 115.6 million (in 2022), and according to data from FIES (PSA 2015) that 1.4% of them are high-income and 40% (approximately 2 in every 5 people) of Filipinos belong to the middle-income class. Assuming that only 1 % of the 40% middle-income class population can afford to travel to NMI, that would equate to 460,000 people. In 2017, a total of 653,150 tourists arrived in the NMI. With only that 1% of the 40% will make up 70% of the 2017 arrivals. HANMI supports this from the perspective of NMI's diversification of tourism market sources," said HANMI.

In addition, HANMI says the Marianas has greatly benefitted from the contributions of Filipinos in terms of economic growth and the inclusion of the Philippines to the visa waiver program would mean a lot to them.

"We have encountered numerous Filipino families, colleagues, friends, and loved ones in the NMI and Guam, and we have greatly benefited from their contributions to the region's economic growth. We understand that this change would mean a lot to our community members from the Philippines, especially in allowing families to easily stay connected in person," said HANMI.

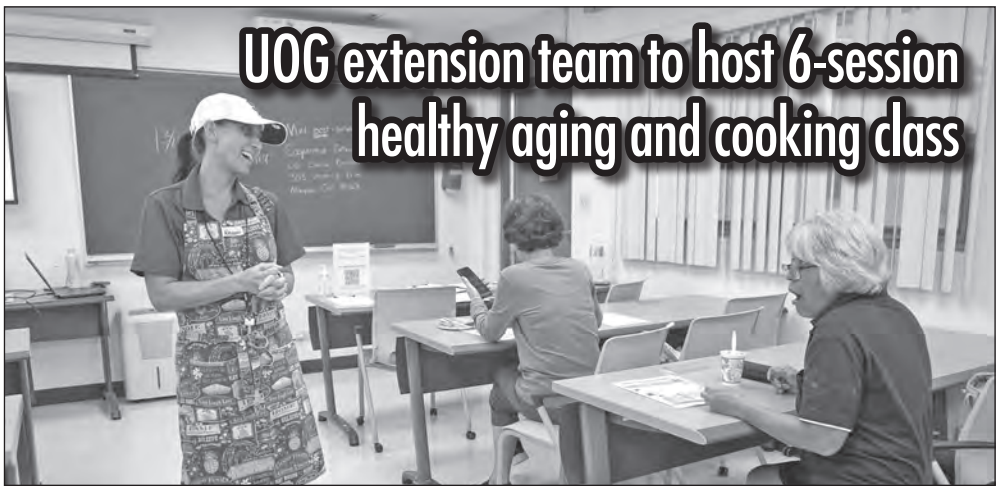
Ultimately, HANMI says the most important part of the passing of this House resolution is developing a strong, third source market in the absence of China.

Last Wednesday, the Philippine House of Representatives unanimously voted to pass House Resolution 332 which essentially enlists the Philippines Department of Foreign Affairs to request U.S. President Joseph Biden to include the country in the existing Guam/CNMI visa waiver program.

Philippine House Resolution 332 was first introduced by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez in 2022.

The Philippine Senate introduced a similar bill back in 2023 but it remains pending.

UOG extension team to host 6-session healthy aging and cooking class



UOG

University of Guam extension nutritionist Tanisha Aflague shares a laugh with a participant of the first workshop of the Nihi ta Fanmama'tinas (Let's Cook) series on Sept. 30, 2023.

Adults of all ages are invited to a six-session wellness class focused on embracing aging and cooking healthy meals. The class combines the curriculum of the Nihi ta Fanmama'tinas (Let's Cook) and the Keys to Embracing Healthy Aging programs of University of Guam Cooperative Extension & Outreach.

The classes will take place from 4pm to 7pm on Wednesdays and from 9am to noon on Saturdays from June 5 to 22 in the Agriculture & Life Sciences Building on the UOG campus. Led by Clarissa Barcinas and Katrina Macasaquit, each class will cover the following topics:

Wednesday, June 5
Cooking Theme: Let's Chesa!
Wellness Topic: Positive Attitude and Eating Smart

Saturday, June 8
Cooking Theme: Let's Bake!
Wellness Topic: Physical Activity and Brain Activity

Wednesday, June 12
Cooking Theme: Let's Make Soup and Salad!
Wellness Topic: Social Activity and Tuning Into the Times

Saturday, June 15
Cooking Theme: Let's Cook on a Budget!
Wellness Topic: Staying Safe and Stress Management

Wednesday, June 19
Cooking Theme: Let's Cook Breakfast!
Wellness Topic: Financial Affairs and Sleep

Saturday, June 22
Cooking Theme: Let's Cook Local!
Wellness Topic: Making Time for You

Each session has a registration fee of $10, and participants must register for all six sessions. The fee includes workshop materials and food samples.

To register, contact Jane Mendiola or Clarissa S.N. Barcinas at (671) 735-2020/9 or email csnbarcinas@triton.uog.edu.

Stay informed of public workshops hosted by UOG Cooperative Extension & Outreach by subscribing to the email list at www.uog.edu/extension/#Subscribe. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024,** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Caller Box 10007 Bldg. No. 1347/1344 Ascension Drive
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.childcare.gov.mp

Vision for Children and Families:
"All children in the CNMI will be safe, healthy, and thriving members of our culturally diverse community. Their families will have access to the high quality supports they need to achieve their potential."

Notice
Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program
Public Hearing for State Plan FFY2025 to 2027

Notice is hereby given that the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) Program will hold a public hearing to provide an opportunity for the community to comment on the provisions of child care services under the CNMI CCDF State Plan for FFY2025-2027.

All interest persons are invited to attend the hearing to provide their comments relative to the proposed State Plan either orally or in writing at the hearing. The Public Hearing is scheduled for these dates, times, and location.

Date	Location	Time
May 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Saipan	530pm to 730pm
June 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm to 730pm
June 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm to 730pm
June 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan	530pm to 730pm

A sign language interpreter is available at all public hearings. Large prints of the summary of the CNMI CCDF State Plan may be provided if a written request is made at least 5-working days before the scheduled hearing. All written request should be forwarded to ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp with the subject line: Request for Large Print of Summary of CCDF State Plan.

Copies of the proposed CNNMI CCDF Plan will be available for download by May 11, 2024 via the childcare website at childcare.gov.mp.

All written comments should be received by the Child Care and Development Fund on or before June 15, 204 and addressed to: Maribel Loste, CCDF Director. Written comments may be submitted at the CCDF Administration Building Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 or via email at mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

Anunsiu
Inadahin Påtgun yan Prugråman Dibelopmentun Fondu (CCDF)
Inekkunguk Pupbliku para State Plan FFY2025 to 2027

Ma'anunsia guini på'gu na i Inadahin Påtgun yan Prugråman Dibelopmentun Fondu (i CCDF) gi påpa' i Dipåttamentun Asuntun Kumunidåt yan Kuttura (i DCCA) na siempri mago'ti inekkunguk pupbliku para u manå'i oputtunidåt i kumunidåt para u mahunguk upiñon-ñiha gi mantensión i sitbisiun inadahin påtgun gi påpa' i CNMI CCDF State Plan para FFY2025-2027.

Todu intiresåo na pitsona makumbibida para u ma'atendi i miting para u mahunguk upiñon-ñiha put i mapropoponi na State Plan maseha gi sinangan osino gi tinigi'-ñiha gi miting. I Inekkunguk Pupbliku mapega para esti siha na fetcha, ora, yan lugåt.

Fetcha	Lugåt	Ora
Måyu 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Saipan	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm to 730pm
Huniu 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan	530pm to 730pm

Managuaha intetpitin "sign language" gi todu na inekkunguk pupbliku. Siña mapribeniyi håo dångkulun kopian i masumåria na CNMI CCDF State Plan yanggin manrikuesta håo gi tinigi' 5-dihas åntis di i isketyu i miting. Todu i tinigi' na rikuesta debi na u mahanåogui guatu as ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp yan i put håfa na suhetu: Rikuestan i Dångkulun Printa put i Masumåria na CCDF State Plan.

I kopian i mapropoponi na CNMI CCDF State Plan siempri managuaha para "download" gi Måyu 11, 2024 ginen i website inadahin påtgun gi childcare.gov.mp.

Todu i tinigi' upiñon siha debi na u marisibi ginen i Inadahin Påtgun yan Dibelopmentun Fondu gi osino åntis di Huniu 15, 2024 yan para u rinisibi as: Maribel Loste, Direktot CCDF. I tinigi' upiñon siha siña ma'intrega hålum gi Atministrasión CCDF, Building Bldg. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 osino email guatu gi mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

Arongorong
Mwiischil Progróómal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF)
reel State Plan FFY2025 ngáli 2027

Arongorong yeel nge isiis bwe Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Sóóbw me Kko (DCCA) Progróómal Child Care me Development Fund (CCDF) re ayoora arongorong ngáliir toulap reel igha rebwe ayoora yoongáli ngáli kkomunidóód bwe rebwe ayoora ischil kkapas wóól peiráághil alillisil child care faal CNMI CCDF State Plan ngáli FFY2025-2027.

Re ghal faingiir alongeer schóó kka re mwuschel rebwe tuutá llól mwiisch rebwe isiisilong aar ischil kkapas ngare apasa milikka e súllúngáli ppwommwol State Plan. E amwirimwiritiw ráál, oora, me lugóótil Mwiischil Toulap.

Ráál	Lugóót	Oora
May 31, 2024	Kagman Community Center, Seipél	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 11, 2024	Tinian Public Library	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 13, 2024	Rota Mayor's Office Conference Hall	530pm ngáli 730pm
June 14, 2024	Multi Purpose Center, Suupi, Seipél	530pm ngáli 730pm

Ebwe lo schóól atéétéélil kkapas reel sign language reel alongal Mwiischil toulap. Rebwe ayoorai ngalugh ischil summary iye e ssór tomwógh ischil reel mille CNMI SSDF State Plan ngare u ayoora tingór llól isch limoow ráál mmwalil mwiisch. Alongal tingór llól isch ebwe isiis ngáli ewabol.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp fengál wóól subject line bwe: Request for Large Print of Summary of CCDF State Plan.

Eyoor pappidil ppwommwol CNMI CCDF State Plan emmwel ubwe download-li wóól Ghúúw (Móózo) 11, 2024 reel aar childcare wedsite me childcare.gov.mp.

Alongal ischil kkapas rebwe bwughi sángi Child Care me Development Fund wóól ngare mmwalil Alimaté (Unnyo) 15, 2024 me ebwe isiis ngáli: Maribel Loste, CCDF Director. Ebwe isiisiló ischil kkapas ngáli CCDF Administration Building GLDG. No. 1344 Ascension Ct. Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950 ngare email-li ló mloste.ccdf@childcare.gov.mp

/s/_____
Maribel Loste
CCDF Director

/s/_____
Francisco M. Rabauliman
DCCA Secretary

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The Biden administration: Pandering to everyone

As poll after poll shows President Joe Biden's re-election campaign struggling to gain traction with the American people, the White House has increasingly resorted to blatantly manipulating policy in a desperate effort to buy votes. It's unseemly, even for this administration.

On Wednesday, the White House announced that it will sell 1 million gallons from a strategic reserve in the Northeast in an effort to lower gasoline prices as the summer travel season approaches. It's all flash and no dash. Upon taking office, the president openly declared war on the domestic petroleum industry, but was later reduced to begging our foreign adversaries to pump more oil when U.S. prices pushed $5 a gallon. Now, with gas prices soaring again and an election looming, Biden makes a production of trying to manipulate the market to further mask the ramifications of the policies he implemented.

It matters not a whit that this tactic will have virtually no impact on national gasoline prices, according to most analysts. The point is simply to deceive voters into thinking that Biden is actually doing something about a problem of his own making.

A similar dynamic is at work in the administration's effort to attract the young vote by saddling taxpayers with student loan obligations. This week, the Department of Education announced that it will wave its magic wand and forgive another $7.7 billion in student loan debt. The White House bragged that it has now canceled $167 billion in loans held by college students and graduates. Never mind that the U.S. Supreme Court held that the executive branch had only limited authority to act in this regard without the consent of Congress. Biden's political survival is far more important than bedrock principles such as the separation of powers.

Finally, we see the White House last week trolling for union support in Michigan and elsewhere by announcing steep tariffs on Chinese electric vehicle imports along with batteries and parts. This policy directly contradicts the administration's heavy-handed efforts to eliminate internal combustion cars and trucks. Biden maintains that global warming poses an "existential threat," but that peril clearly withers in the face of the president's quest to preserve his political life.

A trade war will also be damaging in the long run, hampering efforts by U.S. auto manufacturers to sell goods in one of the world's largest markets, while protecting them from competition that might drive down prices and foster innovation. "Making cheap electric vehicles in the U.S. is getting even tougher," a Wall Street Journal column noted. Watch for the Biden administration to now propose even higher federal subsidies for EV purchases.

Don't expect this tangled web of incoherence to concern Biden. His priority remains pandering for the votes needed to save his hide.

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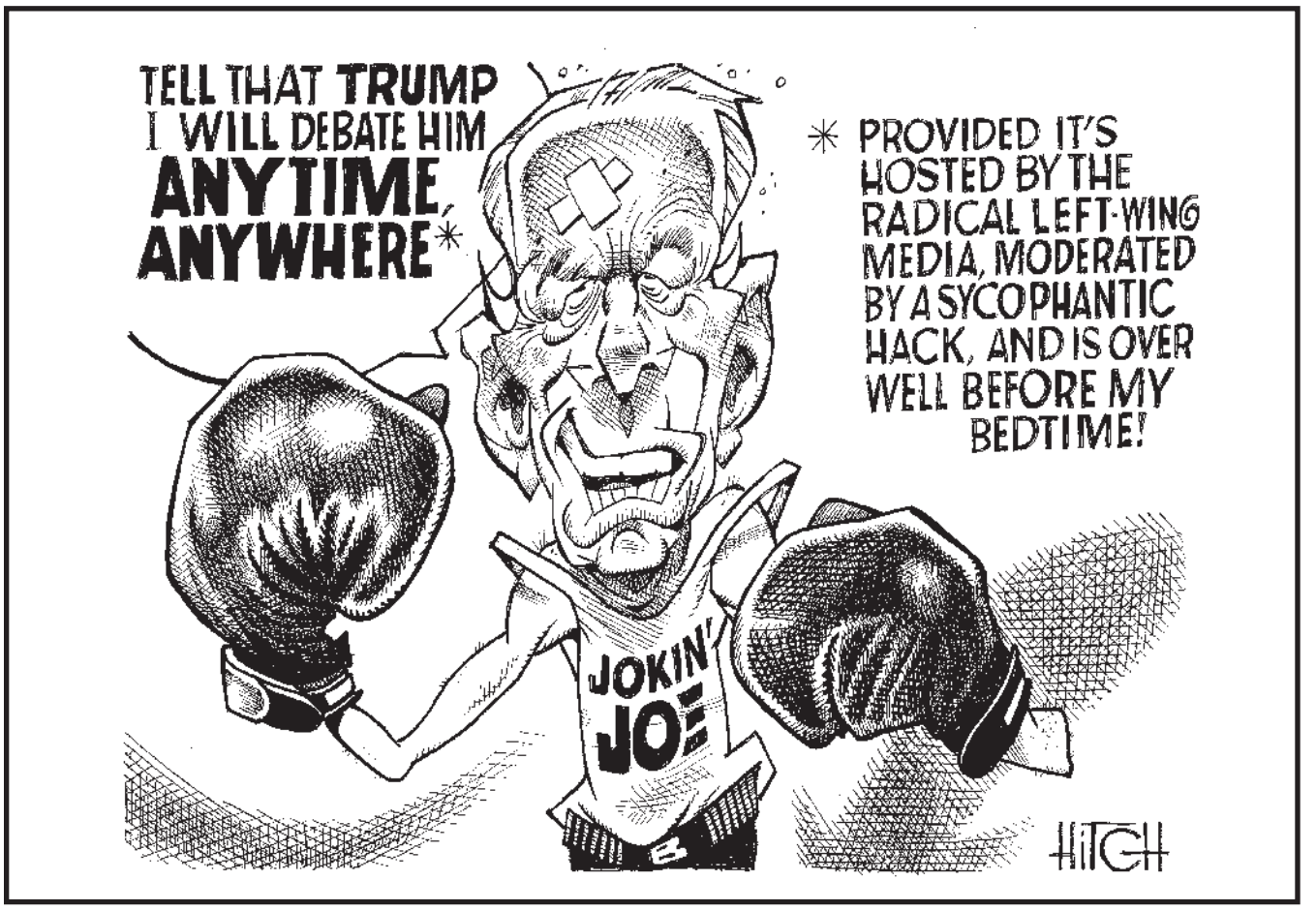

TELL THAT TRUMP I WILL DEBATE HIM ANYTIME, ANYWHERE*
* PROVIDED IT'S HOSTED BY THE RADICAL LEFT-WING MEDIA, MODERATED BY A SYCOPHANTIC HACK, AND IS OVER WELL BEFORE MY BEDTIME!
JOKIN' JOE
HITCH

Rota: Gateway to 'i kottura'

By CARL T.C. GUTIERREZ
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former Guam governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez is the president and CEO of Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam Permit Czar, and chairman of the Governor's Economic Strategy Council. Send comments or questions to GVB at communityrelations@visitguam.org.

Håfa Adai! Especially during this period of visitor industry recovery, it is incumbent upon anyone with a stake in our inter-island economy to practice, preserve, and promote our priceless CHamoru culture. Our very livelihoods depend upon it.

Our 4,000-year-old language and way of life are not only Guam's chief differentiators as a destination of choice, but "i kottura" is literally and figuratively the breadbasket of the whole Marianas archipelago and has always attracted visitors to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The ancient, adventurous, pioneering aspects of *espiritun CHamoru* have also drawn more outdoorsy types into the CNMI's "Northern Islands" district, including the likes of Agrigan, Anatahan, and Pagan islands. These ancient haunts are either uninhabited or sparsely inhabited and largely untouched by human contact. Way up north is where CHamoru and Carolinian survival skills are taught in an atmosphere of "trial by fire" and put to the most demanding test!

But nowhere is our CHamoru heritage more inviolably retained and ingrained than in i islan Luta, the island of Rota, the southernmost landfall of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. And to the Guam Visitors Bureau's everlasting delight, Rota is the Northern Mariana Island that sits closest to the US territory of Guam.

We have good reason to be enamored by our neighbor to the north. Unblemished Rota, once known as "Zarpana," is the trifocal glass through which we most profitably behold, filter, and practice the CHamoru arts.

A cultural repository

Above all other Mariana Islands, including Guam, in many ways Rota is the ultimate keeper of the CHamoru identity. This is true from the practical everyday rhythm, depth, and authenticity of its indigenous people's spoken vernacular to their culturally intrinsic, sustainable use of the island's unspoiled flora, fauna, land, and surrounding seascape.

Bisita!

So, imagine our delight when Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog stopped by the GVB offices a little over a month ago, just to learn a few marketing and promotional ideas by picking up some collateral materials and asking our marketing division for tips. Are you kidding me? We should've been asking Mayor Hocog for advice on cultural authenticity!

When I learned of her visit, I joined the meeting right away and was deeply moved by Mayor Hocog's humility as well as her passion for breathing fresh new life into Rota's economy. This soon led to our familiarization tour of the Friendly Island earlier this month.

Local historian, guide, and cultural practitioner Ben "Guelo" Rosario led the tours, along with his brother, Antonelli "Ton" Rosario from the Historic Preservation Office, and David Santos, an accomplished Rota native who works for the CNMI's Governor's Office. All three of these capable gentlemen were magnanimous, knowledgeable, kind, and hospitable.

Mayor Hocog's right hand, Dina Songao, also made sure we were all taken care of and performed an abundance of legwork and logistics for our itinerary. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services even accompanied us on every outing to make sure we were safe. We thank everyone for an insightful, hazard-free, enjoyable trip!

Our Guam contingent toured Rota's historical and natural hotspots, including the scenic I'Chenchon Park Bird Sanctuary and Alaguan Bay; the ancient Mochong latte stone village, the coastal Agusan Swimming Hole, and the largest banyan tree in the Marianas.

We experienced nighttime crab catching and deer hunting and took in traditional customs, cuisine, artwork, music, and dance.

Sustainable "spot-only" fruit bat hunting and catch-and-release coconut crab hunting are promising pastimes in Rota, since there are plenty of local experts who can monetize these activities for visitors.

Imagine how rejuvenated a city-weary Japanese couple would feel setting *ponne* or *tåhu* coconut baits, then returning with flashlights to pick up crabs before midnight, or walking the reef flats looking for lobsters under cover of darkness.

This is eco-tourism at its most basic level. It's exhilarating, cost effective, sustainable, and lucrative. These kinds of activities could grow into a cottage industry for families in Rota. Southern Guamanians take note!

The island way

We received red carpet treatment and first-class hospitality every

See ROTA on Page 7

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The spread of bird flu should be a wake-up call: Eating animals is killing us all

By HEATHER MOORE
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Heather Moore is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation

If you're not already concerned about bird flu, you should be. The virus has now been found in at least 51 dairy herds in nine states as well as on countless bird and egg farms in the U.S. At least two humans have been infected in the U.S.

Yet just weeks after the Biden administration announced plans to work with 50 other countries to prevent zoonotic (animal-borne) diseases, Alabama and Florida passed laws making it illegal to produce meat that comes from cells grown in labs rather than from animals confined on filthy, disease-ridden farms and then slaughtered. Other states are considering similar legislation. This is a giant leap in the wrong direction.

Intensive animal factories—where most animals used for food are confined—not only cause immense suffering and environmental destruction but also are hotbeds for zoonotic diseases. Sickness proliferates when animals are crowded into feces-filled sheds, cages, crates and stalls and are slaughtered on killing floors covered in blood, vomit and other bodily fluids. Meat grown in labs—aka "slaughterless meat"—meanwhile, is created in clean, controlled conditions in which diseases don't flourish.

Even before the latest bird flu outbreak began spreading around the U.S., Frontiers in Veterinary Science released an eye-opening report calling for a moratorium on building—or expanding—poultry and pig farms in order to stifle zoonotic diseases.

Scientists estimate that there are 144 strains of bird flu. The H5N1 variety that's aggressively spreading kills the most birds and is deadly to humans, killing about 60% of those who catch it. The World Health Organization recently warned that the mortality rate for humans who catch bird flu is "extraordinarily high," noting that we're already in the midst of "a global zoonotic animal pandemic."

It's common for bird flu to mutate and spread to other species, including seals, penguins and cows. Humans coming into contact with infected animals have become sick and can catch the virus just by touching a contaminated surface, such as an eggshell, and then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. The virus can also be inhaled via droplets or dust.

Consumers Union suspects that bird flu may have spread to cows because they're routinely fed chicken litter—the detritus that accumulates on the floor of chicken farms. It typically consists of manure, feathers, feed and bedding materials as well as bacteria, viruses, antibiotics, heavy metals, pesticides, dead rodents and more. It's often mixed with hay or corn to make it more appealing to hungry cows.

But bird flu isn't the only zoonotic disease we have to worry about. In 2009, before COVID-19 circled the globe, swine flu swept through the U.S. after hundreds of sick pigs died on a massive farm in Mexico. Swine flu thrives on pig farms, where tens of thousands of animals are crammed into damp sheds that reek of urine and feces.

Health officials are quick to point out that humans can't get swine flu from eating pork, but they rarely emphasize this important detail: The practice of raising pigs for food puts us all at risk of contracting it.

Vegan foods, meanwhile, have never caused an animal-borne disease and can even protect people from pandemics. A Brazilian research team, for example, found that people who ate predominantly vegan foods had a 39% lower risk of becoming infected with COVID-19. And while slaughter-free meat isn't widely available yet, delicious vegan meats and other cruelty-free foods are everywhere.

Wouldn't it make sense for everyone to stop eating animals before another pandemic emerges? Choosing vegan nuggets instead of ones made from ground-up birds doesn't just save animals' lives—it might save yours, too.

ROTA

From page 6

step of the way from the neighborly Rota community, inclusive of many businesses operating there. Star Marianas Air, TJ Enterprises, Kin & Rit, Inc., Tan Holdings Corpl, PJM Enterprises, As Paris Restaurant, Puesto Grill, Tokyo En Restaurant, Calvo Enterprises, Inc., Blue Palms Dive Service, and Rota Cave Museum all treated us as welcome guests.

Although the island features a few small hotels and a handful of restaurants, some guest amenities are closed indefinitely due to the economic hardship of late. Be that as it may, home-owning locals are more habituated to growing, preparing, and consuming fresh "whole food" delicacies and traditional living in Rota, anyway.

What's more, Friendly Islanders are delighted to share the fruits of their bounty with visitors who discover the calming allures of Rota's Sinapalo and Sonsong villages, the verdant magnificence of its Wedding Cake Mountain (Mt. Taipingot), or the mystery of the "never excavated" largest capstones ever discovered in the Marianas, at As Nieves Latte Stone Quarry.

GVB president and CEO Carl T.C. Gutierrez gets a taste of fresh baked bread during his familiarization tour in Rota earlier this month.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Rota hosts the Guam Visitors Bureau on a special fam tour of the Friendly Island. Mt. Taipingot, aka Wedding Cake Mountain, is seen in the distance.

GVB sends its sincerest gratitude to the people of Rota for hosting us and showing us the incredible natural beauty of their glorious island and all the special ways i taotao ginen Luta take care of it!

Extra shoutouts to Mayor Hocog's staff, Sen. Donald Manglona, the Rota Municipal Council, Rota Chamber of Commerce, Marianas Visitors Authority, CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources.

From my perspective

As many of you know, I am a born-and-bred "wartime Guam" CHamoru who grew up learning the rich Marianas traditions of hunting, fishing, farming, ranching, cooking, and social gathering from elders who knew our way of life before the three-year Imperial Japanese occupation and Battle of Guam.

Our forebears trebled their survival instincts and traditional methods of living with the innate CHamoru trait of adaptability, so their children could thrive on the other side of war without forgetting their roots.

Although Rota was occupied, farmed, and excavated by Imperial Japanese interests mostly during the last few seasons of the Land of the Rising Sun's 30-year reign over the Northern Marianas, the island itself was not a major WWII battleground. Nor was it a primary launching pad for U.S, military maneuvers that turned the Pacific Theater to America's advantage.

Rather, Hispanicized CHamoru prewar life was arguably less disturbed during and after "war and occupation," due to limited battle-era engagement.

And this is an abundant blessing to Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. For it is my humble but informed opinion that Rota soon became the living, breathing institution of our least-touched "CHamoru culture intact," and remains precisely that to this very day.

Therefore, Rota deserves special attention among our most ardent efforts to carry on the traditions of yore through every modern or ancient means within our grasp. With each of us, let the renaissance begin – whether it be in the simple act of smiling and waving at more of our fellow guests and passers by, just like Friendly Islanders are famous for doing, or devoting more of our time to language learning and cultural immersion.

In fact, certain leaders from Rota have expressed a heartfelt desire to formalize culture camps to teach Guamanians more about the prewar ways that have endured on that 1,800-person island in spite of the modernization that has swept over all of Micronesia since the Second World War.

And *bula taotao ginen* Luta (many people from Rota) are eager for their island to become an optional tour for Guam's growing number of visitors. I say, "na'i animu!" What blesses one, blesses all! GVB welcomes the challenge!

The traditional prewar arts of talåya fishing, hunting, gathering, palm frond weaving, "hotnu" oven baking, animal husbandry, and preserving the CHamoru cookbook are worth every effort to practice and perfect. We should also continue to do our utmost to retain and preserve artifacts, even if doing so sometimes entails the reclamation and return of treasures lost to outside interests.

GVB's familiarization tour of the "Friendly Island" of Rota served as a stark reminder of how critical the rapidly evolving "One Marianas" mission must remain in the months and years ahead.

It was a wakeup call for Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam—the permanently inhabited islands of the Marianas archipelago that depend on a thriving visitor industry to keep standing on our own feet—that we must rely on one another for solutions and support in the development of new air routes, refurbished attractions, and reopened guest quarters.

Fascinating as our Friendly Island exchange was for everyone involved, it was also a subtle admonition that the consistent practice, preservation, promotion, and presentation of our generous CHamoru folkways must be the glue that holds us together as a people.

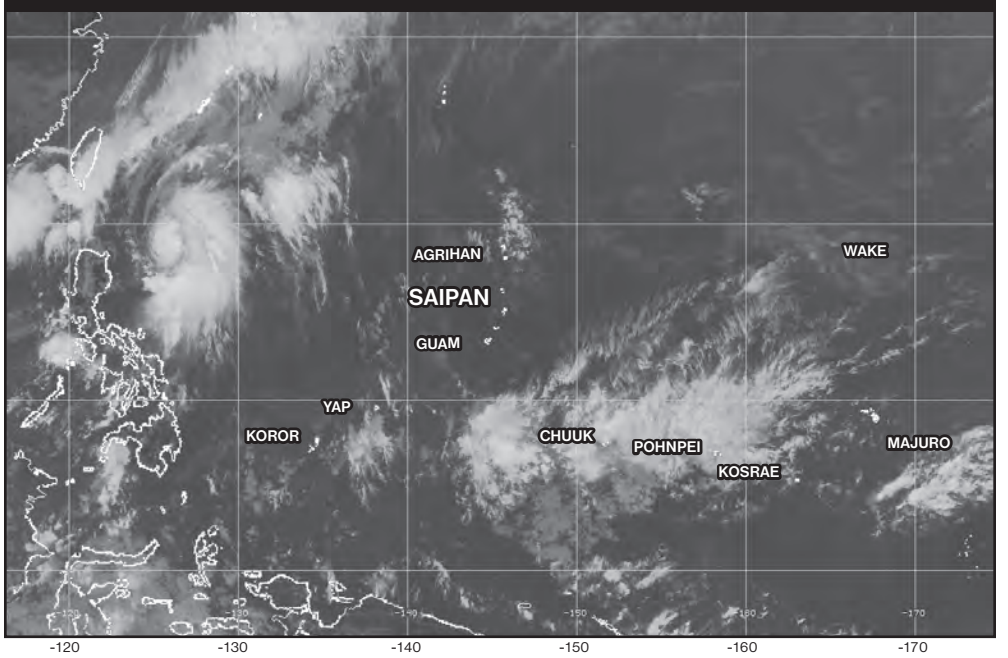
The shocking reality of U.S. armed forces and military contractors hardening defenses across the Marianas and Micronesia is necessary for the protection of our shared liberty. It is also a cultural invasion that comes at a steep price. And it will be up to island people to ensure that our cultures stay intact.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers for Guam; mostly clear with isolated light showers for the CNMI. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:49 AM TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery is showing a few clouds moving in to the Marianas waters with partly cloudy skies over the islands. Combined seas of 3 to 5 feet are observed in the coastal waters by altimetry.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 81°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Cloudy	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 81°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Friday	5:45 AM	6:43 PM
Saturday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM
Sunday	5:45 AM	6:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:45 AM	11:56 PM
Thursday	-	11:44 AM	5:48 AM
Friday	12:39 AM	12:41 PM	-
Saturday	1:20 AM	1:36 PM	-
Sunday	2:00 AM	2:33 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 55°
Beijing	Fair	86° / 58°
Hong Kong	Fair	85° / 77°
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 73°
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°
Los Angeles	Sunny	73° / 59°
Manila	Fair	89° / 82°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	61° / 48°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	89° / 82°
New York	Showers	75° / 61°
Osaka	Heavy Rain	80° / 67°
Paris	Mostly Sunny	79° / 55°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	77° / 64°
Rome	Sunny	82° / 63°
Salem	Showers	77° / 66°
San Francisco	Sunny	73° / 52°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	77° / 54°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 72°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 68°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:03 AM	High Tide	2.04
6:30 AM	Low Tide	1.53
10:29 AM	High Tide	1.84
6:13 PM	Low Tide	-0.06

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

FOR STUDENTS IN US TERRITORIES, FAS

Cantor highlights funding to support OIA's civic education opportunities

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the recent 2024 Insular Area Close Up Program in Washington, D.C pose for a group photo.

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Assistant Secretary for Insular and International Affairs Carmen G. Cantor met with high school students from the 2024 Insular Area Close Up Program, a program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs that provides meaningful civic education opportunities for students from the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States.

In April 2024, the Office of Insular Affairs awarded $1 million through its Technical Assistance Program to the Close Up Foundation. The funding helps provide opportunities for students and educators from the Insular Areas to learn more about American democratic processes through visits and meetings with government leaders in the executive and legislative branches as well as the diplomatic corps. The students also visit historical sites such as Williamsburg and Philadelphia.

"This program supports experiential learning opportunities about our democratic, governmental institutions and we are honored to support these programs for youth from the Insular Areas," said Cantor. "The Interior Department is committed to inspiring the next generation of civic leaders and stewards of our lands and waters so that our precious spaces can be preserved for future generations."

During the visit, discussed the important role that Interior plays vis-à-vis the territories and highlighted the various types of funding assistance provided through the Office of Insular Affairs including new funding under the newly renegotiated Compacts of Free Association.

Cantor also shared information about the work of the Office of International Affairs and the technical assistance provided to other countries in conservation and natural resources. She also discussed the work of the Ocean Program at Interior, their interagency work on developing an Ocean Policy and protecting coral reef natural resources.

Funded through the Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program since 1987, the Close Up Insular Areas Program provides civic education opportunities for students and educators from the Insular Areas, and includes travel to the nation's capital where students meet with government leaders in the executive and legislative branches as well as the diplomatic corps. Recently funded for fiscal year 2024 activities, the Close Up Insular Areas Program has inspired many island leaders and continues to be supported every year by the U.S. Congress. ***(PR)***

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Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V. Salas
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a meeting of the CRM Agency Officials will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 2:30PM at the DCRM Learning Center, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center II, on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Virtual public participation will continue and encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315) or join via telephone by calling the DCRM office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance and most updated information as Zoom meeting access code may change.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Adoption of Agenda
   D. Adoption of May 6, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. PERMIT REVIEW
   1) CRM Permit No. TMS-2022-035-A2
      Project: CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL BARRACKS BUILDING
      Applicant: TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.
      Triple J Saipan, Inc. is proposing to construction one 40-person barracks (Barrack C) building on a privately leased property identified as Lot No. 023 T 22 in Marpo Heights, Tinian. The project's footprint is estimated to be 4,048 square meters.
      a. Agencies' Discussions
      b. Agencies' Determination
IV. OTHER MATTERS
   1) Proposed amendment to NMIAC 15-20 to increase the maximum number of parasailing permits issued from 12 to 20
   2) Authorization for DCRM Director to promulgate proposed regulation amendment.
V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ RICHARD V. SALAS
Director, DCRM

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-GOV/OGM-42400098

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 28, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT AND STATE CLEARINGHOUSE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 1301, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-305, 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR.
CNMI GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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Nation

At least 22 dead in Memorial Day weekend storms in US

A series of powerful storms swept over the central and southern U.S. over the Memorial Day holiday weekend, killing at least 22 people and leaving a wide trail of destroyed homes, businesses and power outages.

The destructive storms caused deaths in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kentucky and were just north of an oppressive, early season heat wave setting records from south Texas to Florida.

Forecasters said the severe weather could shift to the East Coast later Monday and warned millions of people outdoors for the holiday to watch the skies. A tornado watch was issued from North Carolina to Maryland.

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, who earlier declared a state of emergency, said at a Monday press conference that five people had died in his state. The fifth death was a 54-year-old man who had a heart attack while cutting fallen trees in Caldwell County in western Kentucky, the governor's office said.

The death toll of 22 also included seven deaths in Cooke County, Texas, from a Saturday tornado that tore through a mobile home park, officials said, and eight deaths across Arkansas.

Two people died in Mayes County, Oklahoma, which is east of Tulsa, authorities said. The injured included guests at an outdoor wedding. ***(AP)***

Closing arguments, jury instructions, maybe a verdict?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The testimony in Donald Trump's New York hush money trial is all wrapped up after more than four weeks and nearly two dozen witnesses, meaning the case heads into the pivotal final stretch of closing arguments, jury deliberations and possibly a verdict.

It's impossible to say how long all of that will take, but in a landmark trial that's already featured its fair share of memorable moments, this week could easily be the most important.

Starting Tuesday morning, prosecutors and defense lawyers will have their final opportunity to address the jury in closing arguments expected to last for much of the day, if not all of it.

The arguments don't count as evidence in the case charging Trump with falsifying business records to cover up hush money payments during the 2016 presidential election to a porn star who alleged she had a sexual encounter with him a decade earlier. They'll instead function as hourslong recaps of the key points the lawyers want to leave jurors with before the panel disappears behind closed doors for deliberations.

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World

Netanyahu: Deadly strike in Rafah was a 'tragic mistake'

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that a "tragic mistake" was made in an Israeli strike in the southern Gaza city of Rafah that set fire to a camp housing displaced Palestinians and, according to local officials, killed at least 45 people.

The strike only added to the surging international criticism Israel has faced over its war with Hamas, with even its closest allies expressing outrage at civilian deaths. Israel insists it adheres to international law even as it faces scrutiny in the world's top courts, one of which last week demanded that it halt the offensive in Rafah.

Netanyahu did not elaborate on the error. Israel's military initially said it had carried out a precise airstrike on a Hamas compound, killing two senior militants. As details of the strike and fire emerged, the military said it had opened an investigation into the deaths of civilians.

AP

Palestinians look at the destruction after an Israeli strike where displaced people were staying in Rafah, Gaza Strip, Monday, May 27, 2024.

Sunday night's attack, which appeared to be one of the war's deadliest, helped push the overall Palestinian death toll in the war above 36,000, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between fighters and noncombatants in its tally.

"Despite our utmost efforts not to harm innocent civilians, last night there was a tragic mistake," Netanyahu said Monday in an address to Israel's parliament. "We are investigating the incident and will obtain a conclusion because this is our policy."

Mohammed Abuassa, who rushed to the scene in the northwestern neighborhood of Tel al-Sultan, said rescuers "pulled out people who were in an unbearable state."

"We pulled out children who were in pieces. We pulled out young and elderly people. The fire in the camp was unreal," he said.

At least 45 people were killed, according to the Gaza Health Ministry and the Palestinian Red Crescent rescue service. The ministry said the dead included at least 12 women, eight children and three older adults, with another three bodies burned beyond recognition.

Premier of China agrees on cooperation with Seoul, Tokyo

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—China's premier agreed Monday to revive three-way cooperation with South Korea and Japan in the face of shared challenges, but issued a veiled rebuke against the two countries' expanding security cooperation with the United States.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Seoul in what was their countries' first such trilateral meeting in more than four years.

Many experts say just restarting the countries' highest-level annual meeting and agreeing on the need to improve ties is a positive sign for cooperation among the three Northeast Asian neighbors, as they all face economic uncertainties caused by wars and instability around the world. But how drastically their cooperation will be promoted is unknown as the three countries have a range of long-running complex issues.

In a joint news conference after the meeting, Li said China wants to cooperate with South Korea and Japan on economic issues, especially on supply chains and the restart of talks on a three-way free trade deal.

Yoon said the three leaders agreed to promote people-to-people and cultural exchanges, establish safe supply chain networks and work together to tackle shared environmental, health and other issues. Kishida said the three countries share a big responsibility for regional peace and that Japan will chair the next round of the trilateral leaders' meeting.

Despite the seemingly amicable mood of the meeting, however, Li at one point expressed Chinese uneasiness about Japan and South Korea's moves to beef up their security partnership with the U.S., which Beijing views as an attempt to form a bloc to contain China.

Life & Style

‘Anora’ wins Palme d’Or, the Cannes Film Festival’s top honor

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

AP

Sean Baker, winner of the Palme d’Or for the film ‘Anora,’ poses for photographers during the photo call following the awards ceremony at the 77th international film festival, Cannes, southern France, Saturday, May 25, 2024.

Sean Baker’s “Anora,” a comic but devastating Brooklyn odyssey about a sex worker who marries the son of a wealthy Russian oligarch, won the Cannes Film Festival’s top award, the Palme d’Or.

The win Saturday for “Anora” marked a coronation for Baker, the 53-year-old indie filmmaker of “The Florida Project “ who used iPhones to make his 2015 film “Tangerine.” It’s also, remarkably, the fifth straight Palme d’Or won by specialty distributor Neon, following “Parasite,” “Titane,” “Triangle of Sadness” and last year’s winner, “Anatomy of a Fall.” Baker accepted the prize with his movie’s star, Mikey Madison, watching in the audience at the Cannes closing ceremony.

“This, literally, has been my singular goal as a filmmaker for the past 30 years, so I’m not really sure what I’m going to do with the rest of my life,” said Baker, laughing.

But Baker, the first American filmmaker to win the Palme since Terrence Mallick in 2011 with “The Tree of Life,” quickly answered that his ambition would remain to “fight to keep cinema alive.” The director said the world needed reminding that “watching a film at home while scrolling through your phone, answering emails and half paying attention is just not the way—although some tech companies would like us to think so.”

“So I say the future of cinema is where it started: in a movie theater,” said Baker, who dedicated his award to all sex workers “past, present and future.”

The awards were chosen by the nine-member jury led by Greta Gerwig, who told reporters she was “forever changed as a filmmaker because of this experience.” Gerwig praised “Anora” as having the feeling of classical cinema, saying it felt like an Ernst Lubitsch or Howard Hawks film that lead in unexpected directions.

While “Anora” was arguably the most acclaimed film of the festival, its win was a slight surprise. Many expected either the gentle Indian drama “All We Imagine As Light” or the Iranian film “The Seed of the Sacred Fig” to win. Both of those films also took home prizes.

It wasn’t the only jolt of the closing ceremony, though. Before George Lucas was given an honorary Palme d’Or, his old friend and sometimes collaborator Francis Ford Coppol a appeared to present it to him, reuniting two of the most pivotal figures of the last half-century of American moviemaking. Coppola, who earlier in the festival premiered his self-financed sci-fi epic “Megalopolis,” called him his “kid brother.” Lucas called Coppola “a big friend and a brother and a mentor.”

“I’m just a kid who grew up in a vineyard in Modesto, California, who makes movies in San Francisco, with my friend Francis,” said Lucas. “It’s definitely a different world. I’ve actually never made a film in Hollywood as a director.”

“All We Imagine As Light,” about sisterhood in modern Mumbai, won the Grand Prix, Cannes’ second-highest honor. Payal Kapadia’s second feature was the first Indian in competition in Cannes in 30 years.

Afterward, Kapadia urged a wide understanding of Indian cinema, saying “there’s amazing work going on in our country.”

“Not just Bollywood,” said Kapadia.

The jury awarded a special prize to Mohammad Rasoulof’s “The Seed of the Sacred Fig,” a drama made secretly in Iran. Days ahead of the film’s premiere, Rasoulof, facing an eight-year prison sentence, fled Iran on foot. His film, which includes real footage from the 2022-2023 demonstrations in Iran, channels Iranian oppression into a family drama. The Cannes crowd met an emotional Rasoulof with a lengthy standing ovation.

Coralie Fargeat’s body horror film “The Substance,” starring Demi Moore as a Hollywood actress who goes to gory extremes to remain youthful, won for best screenplay.

“I really believe that movies can change the world, so I hope this movie will be a little stone to build new foundations,” said Fargeat. “I really think we need a revolution and I don’t think it has really started yet.”

Some thought Moore, who attended the awards ceremony, might take best actress. But that honor instead went to an ensemble of actors: Karla Sofía Gascón, Zoe Saldaña, Selena Gomez and Adriana Paz for Jacques Audiard’s “Emilia Perez,” a Spanish-language musical about a Mexican drug lord who transitions to a woman. Gascón, who accepted the award, is the first trans actor to win a major prize at Cannes.

“This award is not just for me. It’s for all people who are fighting for themselves and their rights,” Gascón told reporters. “We’ve been insulted, denigrated, subjected to a lot of violence without even knowing why. I think this is award is so much more than anyone could imagine.”

Explaining the jury’s unusual choice of giving best actress to an ensemble, Gerwig said each performer was a standout, “but together they’re transcendent.” “Emilia Perez” also won Cannes’ jury prize, giving it a rare two awards at a festival where prizes are usually spread around.

Best actor went to Jesse Plemons for Yorgos Lanthimos’ “Kinds of Kindness.” In the film, three stories are told with largely the same company of actors. Plemons, a standout in several chapters, didn’t attend the closing ceremony.

Portuguese director Miguel Gomes won best director for his “Grand Tour,” an Asian odyssey in which a man flees his fiancée from Rangoon in 1917.

“Sometimes I get lucky,” shrugged Gomes.

The Camera d’Or, the prize for best first feature across all of Cannes official selections, went to Halfdan Ullmann Tøndel for “Armand,” starring “The Worst Person in the World” star Renate Reinsve. Tøndel is the grandson of Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman and Norwegian actor Liv Ullman.

Last year’s top winners in Cannes went on to considerable arthouse success and awards-season runs through the Oscars. That included the Palme winner “Anatomy of a Fall” and the Grand Prix winner “The Zone of Interest.”

Mother doesn’t want son’s girlfriend at every event

DEAR ABBY: My son is a sophomore in college. He has been dating a girl he met at school for almost a year. Her family no longer speaks to her for reasons I don’t know. I have included her in our family holidays, but she later tells my son that she thinks I don’t like her.

It causes problems for me when I visit him at school, which is often because it’s my alma mater. When I’m there, she attends all dinners and family events whether she’s invited or not, and I am expected to pay for her as well. My son has invited her to our house without my permission, and I do not want her to come. How do I tell him I don’t want her here without causing major problems in my relationship with him?

OPPOSED MOM IN OHIO

DEAR MOM: Teach your son good manners by telling him you don’t want anyone joining you for every family event and dinner without first being asked to include her. As much as he may like the girl, she is not (yet) a family member. Be sure to point out that you do not dislike her, but this is a formality you would like observed. The two of them are not a package deal.

P.S. The fact that her family doesn’t talk to her is a red flag that should not be ignored. Broach that subject with your son now.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I’m concerned that my son-in-law is emotionally abusing my daughter. She was always a bit shy but was able to stand up for herself.

Recently, we were driving to a new destination and she was using Google Maps. It said we had arrived at our destination, but we couldn’t see it. After backtracking, her husband was able to find it. He then berated my daughter for “being unprepared and not knowing where it was”! No one had been there before, and we were following an effective app. She apologized to him.

I wanted to say something, but when I have in the past, she became upset with me. I see her confidence ebbing away. She needs to stand up to him. There have been many more instances. How can I help her return to being the strong and confident woman she was? I don’t think counseling would work. She doesn’t recognize what is happening to her.

MOM WHO SEES IT IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MOM: Talk to your daughter privately. Explain that you are worried about her because she’s no longer the person she once was. Give her examples of her husband’s verbal abuse that you have observed and ask if she thinks she really deserved it. Offer to (quietly) pay for her to talk with a licensed counselor if she would be willing. Then cross your fingers that she will accept your offer and act on it without spilling the beans to her husband.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Unfortunately, I was involved in a traffic accident. (The other party was found liable.) After the crash, the other driver was bleeding and had gashes. I experienced a couple broken ribs. Would it be OK to contact the other driver to see how he is? He was so polite to me at the accident scene. I really feel like he was a nice person.

BROKEN IN NORTH CAROLINA

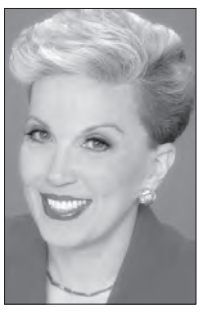
DEAR BROKEN: I know you mean well. However, before contacting this nice person, you would be wise to discuss it with an attorney to make sure there will be no legal ramifications you might later regret.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in “What Every Teen Should Know.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

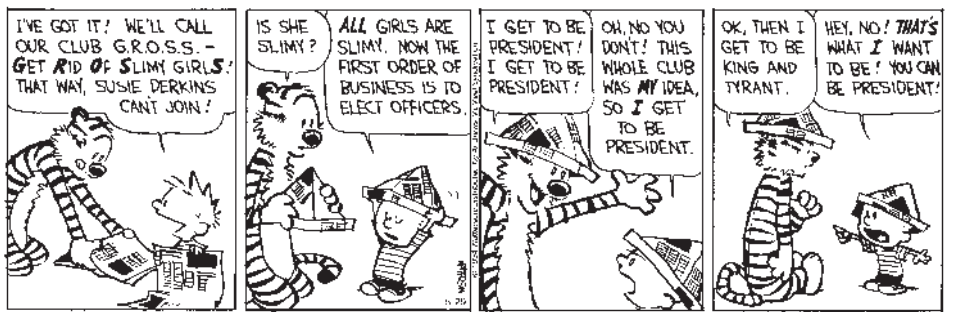


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

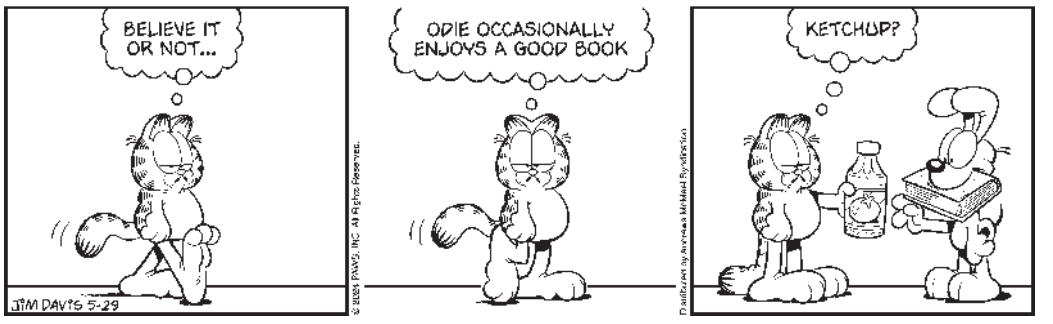
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL CALL OUR CLUB G.R.O.S.S. - GET RID OF SLIMY GIRLS! THAT WAY, SUSIE DERKINS CAN'T JOIN!
IS SHE SLIMY?
ALL GIRLS ARE SLIMY. NOW THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS IS TO ELECT OFFICERS.
I GET TO BE PRESIDENT! I GET TO BE PRESIDENT!
OH, NO YOU DON'T! THIS WHOLE CLUB WAS MY IDEA, SO I GET TO BE PRESIDENT.
OK, THEN I GET TO BE KING AND TYRANT.
HEY, NO! THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO BE! YOU CAN BE PRESIDENT!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



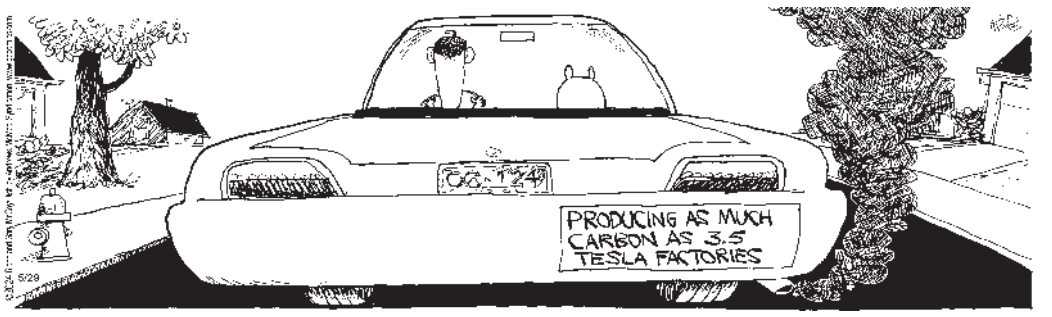
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KA-CHUNK.
(LAURA!)
(I THINK SOMEONES DOWNSTAIRS.)
FOR THE MILLIONTH TIME, THAT WAS THE ICE MAKER IN THE FRIDGE.
(THAT FRIDGE IS UP TO SOMETHING.)
(LONG, SLOW GROAN)
5-29

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 IRS employees
5 Light brown
8 Not many
12 Singer Guthrie
13 Egg (Pref.)
14 Clock reading
15 Low-buzz brewski
17 "Step —!"
18 Volleyball putaway
19 Do-nothings
21 Division term
24 Right angle
25 Muffin type
28 October birthstone
30 Dog tags, e.g.
33 Jurist Fortas
34 City near Syracuse
35 Actress Vardalos
36 Aunt, in Mexico
37 Tart
38 Rope fiber
39 Vinyl records
41 Diner's card
43 Autumnal drinks
46 Sufficient
50 Farmer, at times
51 Plush stuffed toy of the '80s
54 Some JFK guesses
55 Lawyers' gp.
56 — Major
57 Yarn
58 Purchase
59 Courage

DOWN
1 Six-pack units
2 Get ready, briefly
3 Jai —
4 Aaron who created "The West Wing"
5 Water tester
6 Broad st.
7 Sushi wrapper
8 Coral island
9 Minute difference
10 Qatar's ruler
11 Saturates
16 "Air" director Affleck
20 Crème — crème
22 Dorothy's dog
23 Poppy drug
25 Mouse chaser
26 Japanese sash
27 Genuine, with "the"
29 Farmland unit
31 Badly lit
32 Enervate
34 Cold War initials
38 "Nonsense!"
40 Intrinsically
42 Scot's denial
43 Guitarist Atkins
44 Teeny bit
45 Wound cover
47 Andean land
48 Endure
49 Historic periods
52 — Dhabi
53 Comic Romano

Solution time: 23 mins.

L	A	U	D	■	D	U	D	■	M	E	T	A
O	K	H	A	■	A	N	I	■	I	W	O	N
W	A	L	L	E	Y	E	S	■	L	E	N	I
■	■	■	I	T	S	■	P	A	D	R	E	S
S	T	E	A	D	■	P	I	N	E	■	■	■
T	A	G	S	■	C	O	R	N	W	A	I	I
O	R	A	■	F	O	I	I	O	■	H	O	F
W	A	L	L	U	N	I	T	■	T	E	R	N
■	■	■	E	N	D	S	■	N	A	M	E	S
H	A	I	R	D	O	■	P	E	I	■	■	■
E	L	O	N	■	F	I	R	E	W	A	L	L
L	I	T	E	■	E	L	I	■	A	R	E	A
D	E	A	R	■	E	K	G	■	N	I	T	S

Yesterday's answer 5-29

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				16				■	17			
18					■	■	19	20				
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24			■	■
25	26	27		■	28		29		■	30	31	32
33			■	34					■	35		
36			■	37				■	38			
■	■	39	40		■	41		42		■	■	■
43	44				45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50				■	51	52	53					
54				■	55			■	56			
57				■	58			■	59			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Riley Keough, 35; Melanie Brown, 49; Rupert Everett, 65; Annette Bening, 66.

Happy Birthday: Think things through before making a move. Channel your emotions and energy into self-improvements and gains that benefit you instead of drama and emotional disputes that put you in a no-win situation. Do your own thing, build a solid base, and pay attention to detail and originality this year. Learn from the best, exercise integrity and pace yourself physically, financially and emotionally. Your numbers are 8, 13, 24, 30, 37, 45, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Don't let uncertainty hold you back. Shift into high gear and make what you do count. Acts of kindness will bring you into contact with someone who can help you advance. Reach out and contribute, and you'll gain access to opportunities that lead to positive lifestyle changes. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Reconfigure your thoughts to fit your budget, time and skill level, and you will avoid taking on or spending too much. If you want to make progress, update your qualifications and align yourself with people who can help you perfect your skills. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Hold tight and do your best. Use your power of persuasion and physical skills to get things done on time and within budget. Pay attention and be meticulous in everything you do, and you'll outmaneuver anyone who challenges you. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't spend impulsively or make donations or sign up for subscriptions you cannot afford. Monitor your finances closely, and diligently budget for what you want and need. Look for innovative alternatives that get you more for less or that offer extra income. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* A change in the dynamics of a relationship will push you to adjust how you think and handle personal or professional matters. Reach out to someone you trust to offer insight and stellar advice, and you'll gain the tools you need to make a positive adjustment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep life simple. Refuse to overreact or promise the impossible. Look at every aspect of a situation and adjust as you move forward to suit your needs. Don't let your emotions contribute to stubbornness or what drives you to seek revenge. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Show passion in all you do, and you'll gain acceptance from those who can help further your interests. Networking is in your best interest, along with traveling, learning, surrounding yourself with positive people and starting worthwhile projects. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Refrain from making unnecessary changes at home. Consider the cost involved before engaging in something likely to have hidden costs. Get your facts straight and your plans in order before you begin something that consumes time and money. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Look at your options and navigate your way forward with care. Refuse to let anyone pressure you or trick you into something you don't want to do or need. Take time to relax; you'll make better decisions. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't get angry -- get moving. Actions speak louder than words and bring about positive change. Take the initiative to do something that makes a difference. Refuse to let emotions muddle the mind or cause you to do things to show off. Be true to yourself. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Focus on what's working for you and put what isn't on the shelf for now. Create opportunities instead of expecting them to come to you. Become the conduit that enforces positive alternatives that are within budget. Personal improvements will lead to compliments. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look for the good in every situation and person you encounter, and you'll find it easier to dodge controversy. Doing your best to get along will help you gain the freedom to go about your business and do as you please. Out of sight, out of mind. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic, flexible and friendly. You are thorough and inquiring.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5	2						9	8
	8			9	2			6
9		4	3	8	5			1
		9	5	7				
		2	8			5		4
		8	2	3				
	3	6			8	9	2	
8		5		2	6			
		7				8		

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/29

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	2	3	9	1	4	7	8
4	1	7	8	5	2	3	9	6
8	9	3	6	4	7	1	5	2
7	8	9	1	2	4	5	6	3
2	3	6	7	8	5	9	4	1
1	4	5	9	6	3	8	2	7
5	2	8	4	3	6	7	1	9
9	7	4	2	1	8	6	3	5
3	6	1	5	7	9	2	8	4

Difficulty: ★★ 5/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

QUENCH YOUR THIRST Solution: 6 letters

C	H	E	R	R	Y	R	R	E	B	W	A	R	T	S
O	E	D	I	G	E	S	T	N	R	E	W	O	P	W
F	D	L	B	U	B	B	L	E	S	M	I	L	K	E
F	A	O	E	T	S	A	E	R	U	P	A	I	N	A
E	N	C	F	R	E	S	H	G	R	S	E	M	I	T
E	O	E	R	U	Y	I	A	Y	H	K	L	E	R	N
P	M	C	I	G	E	L	R	L	A	F	P	E	D	O
U	E	U	D	O	F	E	R	H	G	L	P	T	T	L
O	L	T	G	Y	D	E	S	P	A	A	A	A	E	E
L	L	T	E	N	B	E	E	E	I	V	M	R	L	M
A	E	E	E	M	G	A	H	L	Ⓣ	O	I	D	T	R
T	W	L	U	N	R	L	C	Ⓔ	T	R	S	Y	T	E
N	B	C	A	O	G	N	Ⓐ	M	I	N	T	H	O	T
A	U	R	L	E	N	N	E	F	B	R	O	S	B	A
C	O	C	O	N	U	T	P	T	U	O	K	R	O	W

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Absorb, Apple, Basil, Blender, Bottle, Bubbles, Cantaloupe, Celery, Cherry, Coconut, Coffee, Cold, Cucumber, Digest, Drink, Energy, Fennel, Flavor, Fresh, Fridge, Glass, Heal, Hydrate, Lemonade, Lettuce, Lime, Mango, Milk, Mint, Mist, Orange, Peaches, Pear, Power, Pure, Shake, Splash, Strawberry, Sweat, Tea, Tomato, Watermelon, Well, Workout, Yogurt

Yesterday's Answer: Trends

The NEW Wonderword Grand Millennium #1 in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Celtics rally late again vs. Pacers for sweep of Eastern Conference finals

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Derrick White stood stoically at midcourt as his teammates celebrated Monday night.

He saw Jayson Tatum toss the ball high into the air, Al Horford run toward the coaching staff and looking for his son long before Jaylen Brown hoisted the Eastern Conference finals MVP trophy. Even coach Joe Mazzulla shared the moment with his wife.

White, meanwhile, seemed ready to get back to work after making the tie-breaking 3-pointer with 43 seconds left, giving the Boston Celtics a 105-102 victory and their second trip in three years to the NBA Finals with a 4-0 sweep over the Indiana Pacers.

"Great shot. We work on that all the time, two-on-one reads," Brown said after scoring 29 points, grabbing six rebounds and blocking a key shot with 65 seconds left to preserve the lead. "Before that, I told D White just to stay ready and that was a big shot, a big shot to send us to the finals."

White scored just 16 points and made just 1 of 8 3s before making the decisive shot from the corner. Until then, he seemed to have taken a back seat to Brown, Tatum, who had 26 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, Jrue Holiday and even the 37-year-old Horford.

But when the Celtics needed a basket to chase the 18th NBA title in franchise history, the poised White delivered with a shot that will be remembered forever in Boston. The Celtics will now face either Dallas or Minnesota, which meet Tuesday in Game 4.

AP

Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum (0) drives to the basket over Indiana Pacers center Myles Turner (33) during the first half of Game 4 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals, Monday, May 27, 2024, in Indianapolis.

The Mavericks have a 3-0 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals.

"We feel confident, we feel comfortable in any type of game, and we feel we've got answers for anything at us," White said. "We've just got to find the right ones."

Boston's victory came exactly one year after White's tip-in rallied from the Celtics from a 3-0 deficit to tie the conference finals against Miami—only to lose Game 7 at home. This year, they've won seven straight playoff games, are 6-0 on the road and are 3-0 in elimination games.

It certainly wasn't easy against the Pacers, who were a perfect 6-0 on their home court before ending the season with two straight losses at a sold out Gainbridge Fieldhouse. Indiana lost three times in the series despite holding leads or being tied in the final minute. It happened again Monday as Boston pitched a shutout for the final 3 1/2 minutes.

Coach Rick Carlisle promised his team would fight hard to extend its season—and, as usual, this young roster didn't disappoint.

Tempers flared briefly in the third when Pacers center Myles Turner knocked guard White to the ground, Brown, who was named the MVP of the series, grabbed Turner's shoulder and Turner shoved Brown away. Turner was called for an offensive foul as he and Brown each drew technical fouls.

There was another scary moment when Brown's hand hit T.J. McConnell in the face, sending him crashing to the ground. The refs ruled it was a common foul following a review. But the two frays didn't change the back-and-forth tenor of this game—or this series—and the Pacers never backed down.

"Our guys embraced it," Carlisle said of his team's effort without Haliburton and throughout the playoffs. "Give them (the Celtics) credit for the stuff they pulled off at the end of the last two games. They simply made more plays."

Andrew Nembhard had 24 points, 10 assists and six rebounds but missed a potentially tying 3-pointer in the closing seconds and the Pacers never got the ball again. Pascal Siakam added 19 points and 10 rebounds for Indiana while T.J. McConnell had 15 points and Aaron Nesmith had 14.

But the Celtics dominated late again.

They pulled within 102-100 on Tatum's dunk with 3:12 to go, tied the score with 2:40 left on Brown's mid-range jumper and then took the lead on White's 3.

In between, Boston forced two turnovers and Brown blocked Nembhard's short at the rim with 1:05 left. Indiana had one more chance when Tatum missed a 3 with 8 seconds left, but Jrue Holiday chased down the rebound and ran out the clock before Indiana could foul.

"They fought us hard to the wire, they have pride as a team. They didn't want to give up," a relieved Tatum said. "We missed bunnies all night. I knew we were due for one. That was a big time shot."

Bill Walton, Hall of Fame player who became a star broadcaster, dies of cancer at 71

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Larger than life, only in part because of his nearly 7-foot frame, Walton was a two-time NCAA champion at UCLA, a two-time champion in the NBA, a Basketball Hall of Fame inductee, an on-court icon in every sense of the word. And off the court, Walton was a chronic fun-seeker, a broadcaster who adhered to no conventional norms and took great joy in that, a man with a deeply serious side about the causes that mattered most to him.

"Bill Walton," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said, "was truly one of a kind."

Walton died Monday at the age of 71 after a prolonged fight with cancer, the league announced on behalf of his family. He was the NBA's MVP in the 1977-78 season, the league's sixth man of the year in 1985-86 and a member of the league's 50th anniversary and 75th anniversary teams. That followed a college career in which he blossomed while playing under coach John Wooden at UCLA, becoming a three-time national player of the year.

"I am sad today hearing that my comrade and one of the sports world's most beloved champions and characters has passed," Julius "Dr. J" Erving, a fellow Hall of Famer, wrote on social media. "Bill Walton enjoyed life in every way. To compete against him and to work with him was a blessing in my life."

Tributes immediately began pouring in, and the NBA held a moment of silence to commemorate Walton's life before Game 4 of the Boston Celtics-Indiana Pacers matchup in the Eastern Conference finals on Monday night.

Walton, who entered the Hall of Fame in 1993, was one of the game's most celebrated figures. His NBA career—disrupted by chronic foot injuries—lasted only 468 games combined with the Portland Trail Blazers, the San Diego/Los Angeles Clippers and the Celtics. He averaged 13.3 points and 10.5 rebounds in those games, neither of those numbers exactly record-setting.

Still, his impact on the game was massive.

"I love him as a friend and as a teammate," Celtics legend Larry Bird said. "It was a thrill for me to play with my childhood idol and together we earned an NBA championship in 1986. He is one of the greatest ever to play the game. I am sure that all of my teammates are as grateful as I am that we were able to know Bill. He was such a joy to know and he will be sorely missed."

Walton's most famous game was the 1973 NCAA title game, UCLA against Memphis, in which he shot 21 for 22 from the field and led the Bruins to another national championship.

"One of my guards said, 'Let's try something else,'" Wooden told The Associated Press in 2008 for a 35th anniversary retrospective on that game.

Wooden's response during that timeout: "Why? If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

They kept giving the ball to Walton, and he kept delivering in a performance for the ages.

"It's very hard to put into words what he has meant to UCLA's program, as well as his tremendous impact on college basketball," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said Monday. "Beyond his remarkable accomplishments as a player, it's his relentless energy, enthusiasm for the game and unwavering candor that have been the hallmarks of his larger-than-life personality.

"It's hard to imagine a season in Pauley Pavilion without him."

When Walton retired from the NBA he turned to broadcasting, something he never thought he could be good at—and an avenue he sometimes wondered would be possible for him, because he had a pronounced stutter at times in his life.

Turns out, he was excellent at broadcasting: Walton was an Emmy winner, eventually was named one of the top 50 sports broadcasters of all time by the American Sportscasters Association and even appeared on The New York Times' bestseller list for his memoir, "Back from the Dead." It told the story of a debilitating back injury suffered in 2008, one that left him considering taking his own life because of the constant pain, and how he spent years recovering.

"I lived most of my life by myself. But as soon as I got on the court I was fine," Walton told The Oregonian newspaper for a story published in 2017. "But in life, being so self-conscious, red hair, big nose, freckles and goofy, nerdy looking face and can't talk at all. I was incredibly shy and never said a word. Then, when I was 28 I learned how to speak. It's become my greatest accomplishment of my life and everybody else's biggest nightmare."

The last part of that was just Walton hyperbole. He was known for his on-air tangents and sometimes appeared on-air in Grateful Dead T-shirts; Walton was a huge fan of the band and referenced it often, even sometimes recording satellite radio specials celebrating what it meant to be a "Deadhead."

And the Pac-12 Conference, which has basically evaporated in many ways now because of college realignment, was another of his many loves. He always referred to it as the "Conference of Champions" and sang its praises all the way to the end.

"It doesn't get any better than this," he once said on a broadcast, tie-dyed T-shirt on, a Hawaiian lei around his neck.

Walton was involved in the broadcasts of college and NBA games for CBS, NBC and ABC/ESPN in his career, along with stints working for the Clippers and Sacramento Kings as an analyst. He returned to ESPN and the Pac-12 Network, further touting the roots of his league, in 2012.

Stowers has career-high 4 RBIs as Orioles topple Red Sox

BALTIMORE (AP)—Kyle Stowers had three hits, including two doubles and a career-high four RBIs, Ryan Mountcastle also had three hits and the Baltimore Orioles cruised to a 11-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Monday.

Cedric Mullins added a two-run triple as Baltimore scored five runs in the fourth off Boston's Cooper Criswell (2-2) to help open the series with its fifth consecutive win.

"It was fun for me to have a big day, fun for the team to get a win," Stowers said. "Just cool to have a big moment."

Cole Irvin (5-2) pitched five shutout innings in a return to the rotation spurred by the Orioles placing John Means and Dean Kremer on the 15-day injured list last week.

Criswell allowed seven runs—six earned—over four innings as Boston lost its third out of four overall and fourth straight against Baltimore. Five of the Orioles' six hits off the right-hander went for extra bases.

"He was OK," Boston manager Alex Cora said. "Not too many swing and misses. They did a good job taking away certain pitches, and they put good swings on it."

Romy Gonzalez hit a three-run triple in the eighth off Baltimore's Thyago Vieira, who let all five batters reach in his club debut.

A second-round selection in the 2019 MLB draft that produced Orioles stars Adley Rutschman and Gunnar Henderson, the 26-year-old Stowers has struggled to find time in Baltimore's lineup.

But he made the most of his 33rd career start, and fourth since his most recent recall from Triple-A Norfolk.

"A lot more comfortable," Stowers said. "Playing with a lot of confidence, a lot of gratitude. And honestly just playing, just playing the game."

After lining out in the second, Stowers came up again with the bases loaded and none out in the fourth, and drove Criswell's 2-2 changeup the opposite way. Left fielder Jarren Duran started in on the ball, then couldn't retreat in time as it landed in the grass shy of the warning track, growing Baltimore's lead to 4-0.

Stowers added another double in a scoreless sixth, then drove in two more runs in the seventh with a single against the Red Sox's Brad Keller.

Irvin allowed four hits and three walks, and twice escaped jams while the game was still close.

In the second inning, he got Dominic Smith to hit into an inning-ending groundout to strand runners on the corners. In the fourth, he fanned Smith looking and Ceddanne Rafaela swinging to leave the bases loaded.

"It took a couple innings to get back to feeling kind of like myself," Irvin said. "But all and all, battled through that and the last two innings felt like myself again."

AP

Baltimore Orioles' Kyle Stowers reacts after he doubled in two runs during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Monday, May 27, 2024, in Baltimore.

TWINS 6, ROYALS 5

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Joe Ryan pitched seven smooth innings for Minnesota, who got a two-run homer by Jose Miranda and a three-run shot from Trevor Larnach and hung on to beat Kansas City in the opener of a four-game series.

Ryan allowed one run and four singles while lowering his team-leading ERA to 2.96. The right-hander struck out nine and walked none.

Ryan (4-3) has pitched at least into the sixth in each of his 11 starts this season.

Alex Kirilloff's two-out RBI single in the eighth inning gave the Twins (29-24) enough insurance to improve to 5-1 since a seven-game losing streak.

Hunter Renfroe's two-out RBI double in the ninth off Cole Sands put men on second and third and the tying run on deck for the Royals (34-21), before Jhoan Duran was summoned for the final out.

BLUE JAYS 5, WHITE SOX 1

CHICAGO (AP)—George Springer, Bo Bichette and Davis Schneider homered, and Toronto beat the Chicago White Sox.

Chris Bassitt struck out seven in five scoreless innings as Toronto stopped a three-game slide. Bassitt (5-6) allowed five hits and walked none against his first major league team.

Springer connected in the second inning after Daulton Varsho reached on a two-out walk against Nick Nastrini. It was Springer's fourth homer of the season.

Bichette led off the fourth with his fourth homer, a 419-foot drive to center.

Nastrini (0-4) allowed three hits in five innings. He struck out five and walked four.

Last-place Chicago lost its sixth consecutive game. It dropped to 15-40 for the worst 55-game start in franchise history.

REDS 3, CARDINALS 1

CINCINNATI (AP)—Nick Lodolo came off the injured list to pitch 5 1/3 innings of one-run ball, Jeimer Candelario homered and Cincinnati won a season-high fourth straight game, over St. Louis.

Lodolo, who missed his last two starts while nursing a groin injury, allowed a first-inning home run to Paul Goldschmidt but otherwise stayed out of trouble against the hot-hitting Cardinals. The 26-year-old lefty allowed five hits, struck out three and did not issue a walk.

Reliever Fernando Cruz struck out all five batters he faced in the sixth and seventh innings. Sam Moll fanned two more Cardinals in the eighth, and Lucas Sims retired the side in order in the ninth to get his first save.

St. Louis had a five-game win streak snapped after coming off a 7-1 homestand.

The Cards got solid pitching from starter Lance Lynn, who allowed three runs (one earned) and five hits in six innings. He struck out five and walked three.

BREWERS 5, CUBS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Willy Adames hit a three-run homer during Milwaukee's five-run eighth inning, and the Brewers beat the Chicago Cubs in Craig Counsell's return to American Family Field.

Counsell, the winningest manager in Brewers history, left Milwaukee after last season when the Cubs signed him to a five-year contract worth over $40 million. He already had managed against his former team when the Cubs took two of three from the Brewers at Wrigley Field from May 3-5.

The Brewers welcomed Counsell back with a brief thank-you video message on the scoreboard that was accompanied by a chorus of boos from Brewers fans in the sellout crowd of 41,882. Counsell was booed every time he left the dugout.

The Cubs lost their fifth straight and wasted a brilliant performance from Justin Steele, who spent most of the day in a pitchers' duel with Robert Gasser. The Cubs didn't arrive in Milwaukee until early Monday morning following a 4-3 loss at St. Louis in a rain-delayed game Sunday night.

The NL Central-leading Brewers lead the Cubs by 4½ games.

NATIONALS 8, BRAVES 4

ATLANTA (AP)—Mitchell Parker pitched five-hit ball into the seventh inning and CJ Abrams homered, helping Washington beat Atlanta Braves.

Parker (4-2) allowed three runs, struck out six and walked none in 6 1/3 innings. The rookie left-hander has permitted three runs or fewer in each of his first eight major league starts.

The Braves adjusted their lineup in their first game since losing 2023 NL MVP Ronald Acuña Jr. to a season-ending torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee on Sunday.

Second baseman Ozzie Albies was the team's new leadoff hitter. Jared Kelenic and Adam Duvall, who have been sharing time in left field, each started. Duvall replaced Acuña in right and Kelenic started in left.

Jacob Young had three of the Nationals' 15 hits. Nick Senzel had two hits, including a two-run single in a four-run first inning against Charlie Morton.

Parker retired 14 consecutive batters in one stretch. He was working with an 8-0 lead before fading in the seventh.

ROCKIES 8, GUARDIANS 6

DENVER (AP)—Charlie Blackmon homered to cap a six-run fourth inning and Colorado ended Cleveland's nine-game winning streak.

Blackmon drove in four runs and made a sliding catch in foul territory for Colorado, which is 11-6 since an 8-28 start.

The fourth-inning rally ended Cleveland's longest winning streak since it won an AL record 22 straight from Aug. 24 to Sept. 14, 2017.

José Ramírez continued his strong start to the season with two doubles and drove and increased his major league RBI lead to 54 with two driven in. He had a chance for more but struck out with a runner on in the ninth.

The Rockies own the second worst record in the NL but are 6-1 against Texas, Philadelphia and Cleveland over the last two weeks. They used a big fourth against starter Xzavion Curry (0-1) to turn a three-run deficit into a 7-4 lead and end the Guardians' streak.

GIANTS 8, PHILLIES 4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Brett Wisely doubled in a key insurance run in the sixth inning after an earlier RBI single, Patrick Bailey hit a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the fifth, and San Francisco beat Philadelphia.

Reigning NL Cy Young Award winner Blake Snell remains winless with San Francisco since signing a $62 million, two-year contract in March. Randy Rodríguez (1-0) relieved and pitched two innings for his first major league win.

Thairo Estrada's hard grounder scored the tying run in the fifth when the ball glanced off third baseman Alec Bohm's glove for an error.

Heliot Ramos added a two-run single in the seventh as the Giants won for the ninth time in 11 games, much to the delight of the holiday sellout crowd of 40,598. San Francisco was swept in a four-game series at Philadelphia from May 3-6, getting outscored 29-11.

The Phillies fought back after trailing 3-0 to go ahead 4-3. Kyle Schwarber connected for his 10th homer with a two-run drive in the third. Edmundo Sosa hit a one-out triple in the fourth, then scored the tying run moments later on Snell's wild pitch.

PADRES 2, MARLINS 1

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jake Cronenworth drew a bases-loaded walk with two outs in the seventh, one batter after shortstop Tim Anderson committed his second error of the inning, and San Diego beat Miami.

It was the Padres' second consecutive home win after losing five straight games at Petco Park.

After failing to score with the bases loaded and one out in the sixth, the Padres came through in the seventh for the go-ahead run.

Ha-Seong Kim hit a leadoff single and Fernando Tatis Jr. reached on Anderson's fielding error with one out. Jurickson Profar flied out and Anthony Bender replaced A.J. Puk (0-6) on the mound. Manny Machado grounded to Anderson, who went for an inning-ending force out at second base but bobbled the ball for another error. Cronenworth then worked a seven-pitch walk to bring in Kim.

Adrian Morejon (1-0) got the win and Robert Suarez pitched a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

MARINERS 3, ASTROS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Bryce Miller allowed two runs over six innings to pick up his first win since April 17, and Seattle used a big first inning against Houston starter Framber Valdez to hold on for win over Houston.

Seattle scored three times in the first off Valdez and then leaned on its pitching to make the early lead stand up. Miller did his part then turned it over to relievers Trent Thornton, Gabe Speier and Andrés Muñoz to close out the victory.

Muñoz got the final three outs for his 11th save.

Bridge Capital, New Chang Ming eliminate foes

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Bridge Capital and New Chang Ming eliminated their foes in the playoffs of the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup after their games last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

To kick off the playoff round, Bridge Capital eliminated 670 Akkari EET 1, 80-60.

Steve King sunk five 3-pointers to secure Bridge Capital's spot in the semis. He not only dominated outside, but he also made his presence known inside the paint for a game-high 27 points.

By the second quarter, King and his men enjoyed a sizable lead and continued to expand it. With the help of Tony Kim's fastbreak plays, Bridge Capital soared to a 16-point lead at the halftime break.

670 Akkari EET 1 didn't go down without a fight, however, as Edison Viana and Peyton Basa pulled up to the party and helped their team get on track. John Kae Raquepo also fired a couple of shots from downtown toward the end of the game.

LEIGH GASES
File photo shows Bridge Capital's Matthew Richardson going for a layup during their game against New Chang Ming in the 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

It was too little too late, however, as Bridge Capital's lead ballooned to 20 points and didn't give leeway for a comeback for 670 Akkari EET 1.

King's 27 points led the game, while Kim scored 16, and Chris Sanchez added 14 points. Raquepo had 15 markers, while Viana scored 10, and Gino Asavo contributed 9.

In the night cap, New Chang Ming grinded away in a hard-fought battle against Ol'Aces and came out victorious, 65-55.

Rodel Pastrano was the mainstay for New Chang Ming and set the tone for the team as he put up a game-high 21 points. He went on a 11-point streak as he scored two back-to-back 3s, followed it with a field goal, then proceeded to shoot another three in the second quarter.

Behind him was Daryl Foronda who covered the inside and contributed 12 points.

Despite the big two in New Chang Ming's roster, Ol'Aces also had sharpshooters on their team. They kept pace with New Chang Ming at the end of the first, 12-12, and weren't far behind in the third, 41-48.

Sidney Quan kept Ol'Aces going in the first and second and summed up the game with 15 points, while Kevin Kabiriel was right behind him with 10 points. In the end, Melvin Sakisat Jr. and Jawn Joyner tried to give them a fighting chance with baskets from the inside, but New Chang Ming pulled away as they sank in crucial points from the charity line.

Last night, the Saints took on La Mesa Kusina with results to be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*. Tonight, Team Marianas takes on Bridge Capital, followed by New Chang Ming vs. the winner of the Saints vs. La Mesa Kusina.

This Saturday, June 1, at 6pm is the championship game.

First Game

Bridge Capital 80 – King 27, Kim 16, Sanchez 14, Richardson 8, Duenas 7, Manglona 6, Atalig 2.

670 Akkari EET 1 60 – Raquepo 15, Viana 10, Asavo 9, Pelisamen 7, T. Basa 6, P. Basa 6, Padayao 3, Factor 2, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-9, 40-24, 66-41, 80-60.

Second Game

New Chang Ming 65 – Pastrana 21, Foronda 12, David 7, Diwa 6, Camacho 4, Bernardo 4, Broncano 4, Esdrelon 3, Baking 2, Devero 2.

Ol'Aces 55 – Quan 15, Kabiriel 10, Joyner 8, Sakisat Jr. 6, Castro 5, Libuw 5, Joab 3, E. Rangamar 3.

Scoring by quarters: 12-12, 35-24, 48-41, 65-55.

KANOA

From page 16

MP United defeated Paire FC, 4-1.

The Golden Boot Award winner for MSL 1 was Markus Toves who scored 14 goals.

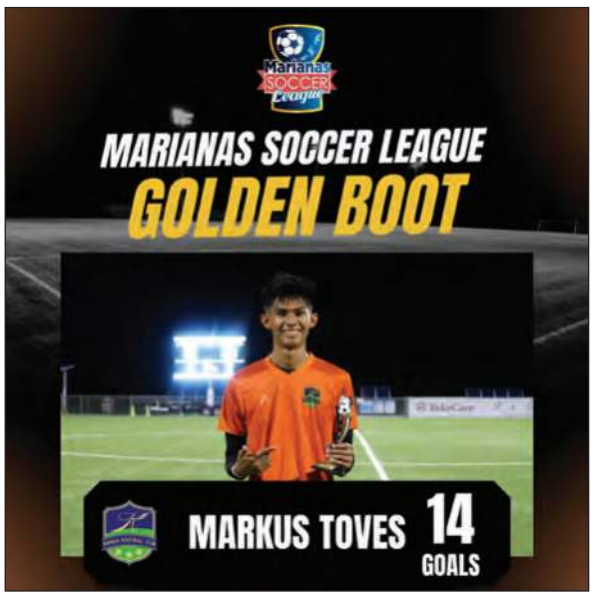
With Omelau and Toves on Kanoa's MSL 1 team are Merrick Toves, Danell Pablo, Brian Lubao, Andrew Omelau, Andrew Sablan, Ruben Guerrero, Mark Chavez, Maximus Taitano, Izeah Jolo, Vicente Reyes, John Quidato, Nolan Ngewakl, Paul Lizama, Adrian Lubao, Jim Maniago, Christian Negara, and Aloyzeus Angeles.

Before the MSL 2 championship showdown, Kanoa FC was handed the title after Paire forfeited the match due to an insufficient number of players.

Third place went to Old B Bank after they blanked MP United, 6-0.

The Golden Boot Award for MSL 2 went to Old B Bank's John Canape who knocked in 13 goals.

In Kanoa's MSL 2 team are Clayton Izuka, Hannah Robertson, Jin Seok Seo, Dhiraj Chhetri, Jerry Tan, Jeremiah Benavente, Hojin Woo, Risty Vergara, Weiping Chen, Irish Pagarao, Keiffer Pido, Christian Achas, Jose Lopez, Fradel Sedillo, Jose Jinang, Jack Phan, Paulo Quidato, Dindo Pablo, Carl Salas, Jinxian Chen, and Ensan Cui.



NMIFA
Kanoa Football Club's Markus Toves is the Golden Boot Award winner in the Marianas Soccer League with 14 goals.

NMIFA
Old B Bank's John Canape is the Golden Boot Award winner of the Marianas Soccer League 2 with 13 goals.

TOURNEY

From page 16

Korea's Gyeom Do defeated Japan's Yuta Amano, 6-2, 6-1, and Hong Kong's Ying Chi Chloe Wong bested South Korea's Sun Park, 6-3, 6-0; and South Korea's Geon Hyeok Jeon breezed past Japan's Itsuki Umezawa, 6-3, 6-1.

South Korea's Junhyuk Seo made light work of Japan's Daiya Hino, 6-2, 6-2, and Japan's Aoi Yoshida routed Great Britain's Charlotte Perks, 6-2, 6-4.

Japan's Tohko Takino edged Guam's Fremont Gibson, 6-1, 6-2, and South Korea's Jian Pyun beat Guam's Jonathan Jackson, 6-4, 6-1.

South Korea's Young Hoon Kim won via forfeit over Taiwan's Alex Lap Hang Hui, and countryman Kyoungman Kim defeated Chinese-Taipei's Caden Kuang-Bo Hsia, 6-3, 6-2.

Then, Jun Hyuck Lee of South Korea beat Japan's Aoi Umezawa, 6-0, 6-2, and Australia's Darren Yann Junn Lew defeated South Korea's Taekyeon Lee, 6-4, 6-0.

Japan's Misaki Sekido crushed South Korea's Yura Kang, 6-1, 5-2, and Hong Kong's Wan Him Donovan Yim blew past South Korea's Woo Yeon Na, 6-1, 6-2.

When the *Saipan Tribune* visited the courts at noon yesterday, the tourney was well underway under the blazing summer sun, just as a slight breeze continuously blew around the courts.

There, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association president and tourney director Jeff Race said that the tourney is great for NMI players as they could potentially earn ITF points if they win their matches.

As to why NMI's La Hunn Lam wasn't in the tourney, Race said he was injured after the 2024 Citadel Guam World Tour earlier this month. He also won't be able to play for the NMI tennis team in the 2024 Micronesian Games in the Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24.

Fifty-five junior netters from the NMI, Guam, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, China, Australia, U.S., Great Britain, and Chinese-Taipei are vying for ITF points in the tourney that ends on Saturday, June 2.

An ITF J30 event is a junior event with 30 world ranking points for the winner. Players will play singles and doubles. It is the entry level event for emerging tennis players who are trying to acquire world ranking points to be accepted on the professional tour or win a scholarship to a U.S. college.

The last time an ITF J30 event was held on Saipan was in 2019.

MEDALS

From page 16

saw action in the Micro Games was in 2010 in Palau with the squad collecting three gold medals, two silvers, and four bronzes.

Race, who incidentally had his last stint with the NMI as a player in the 2010 Micronesian Games where he completed the islands' sweep in the men's singles (Todd Montgomery and Peter Loyola winning the gold and silver), said all members of the team bound for Marshall Islands next month are doing well in training and are not lacking in game experiences so they are battle ready for the medals at stake in this year's Micro Games.

In fact, starting this week Lee, Chae, Chung, and Wang will be playing in the J30 Saipan-Northern Marianas Junior Championships—an event under the ITF World Tennis Tour Junior Calendar. The NMI junior players will be up against representatives of Korea, Australia, Japan, Guam, Hong Kong, and Great Britain. Ramsey, on the other hand, is a regular in local competitions and played for the NMI in the 2023 Pacific Games in the Solomon Islands last November, while Lam has been playing in off-island tournaments with the recent one at the 2024 Citadel Guam World Tour where he got his first ITF points.

For next month's Micronesian Games, the NMI National Tennis Team will be up against perennial rival Guam, host Marshall Islands, Palau, Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Nauru, and Kiribati. Only Chuuk did not list a team for the tennis competition that will run from June 20 to 23 at the NCD and USP Tennis Courts in Majuro.

"I believe our biggest challenger will be Guam," Race said.

Guam has initially listed entries only for the men's division, while the rest of the participating countries and states have entries both in the women's and men's divisions. Tennis will have the team event in men's and women's and the men's and women's singles and doubles, and mixed doubles games.

The NMI National Team Tennis is part of the 114-member delegation of Team Marianas, which is supported by the following sponsors: Mariana Express Lines Pte. Ltd, Skechers, Joeten Daidai Foundation, Triple J Motors, E-Land Group, D&Q, TakeCare Insurance, IT&E, Bank of Guam, Black Construction Corp., Dial-Rent-To-Own, RNV Constructions, GPPC/Apex Builders, Matson, Chinese Association of Saipan, Y.K. Corp., LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, P&A Corp., Jose & Ruri Ayuyu Foundation, and Zoom Café. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	37	18	.673	–
Baltimore	34	18	.654	1½
Boston	27	27	.500	9½
Tampa Bay	26	28	.481	10½
Toronto	24	29	.453	12

CENTRAL DIVISION

Cleveland	36	18	.667	–
Kansas City	34	21	.618	2½
Minnesota	29	24	.547	6½
Detroit	26	27	.491	9½
Chicago	15	40	.273	21½

WEST DIVISION

Seattle	29	26	.527	–
Texas	25	29	.463	3½
Houston	24	30	.444	4½
Oakland	22	33	.400	7
Los Angeles	20	33	.377	8

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

Philadelphia	38	17	.691	–
Atlanta	30	21	.588	6
Washington	24	28	.462	12½
New York	22	30	.423	14½
Miami	19	36	.345	19

CENTRAL DIVISION

Milwaukee	31	22	.585	–
Chicago	27	27	.500	4½
St. Louis	25	27	.481	5½
Pittsburgh	25	29	.463	6½
Cincinnati	24	30	.444	7½

WEST DIVISION

Los Angeles	33	22	.600	–
San Diego	29	28	.509	5
San Francisco	28	27	.509	5
Arizona	25	28	.472	7
Colorado	19	34	.358	13

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Celtics rally late again vs. Pacers for sweep of Eastern Conference finals
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Sports

Bridge Capital, New Chang Ming eliminate foes
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Kanoa FC bags MSL 1 and 2 titles

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Kanoa Football Club in the Marianas Soccer League 1 and MSL 2 bagged the championships last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The MSL 1 finals was a nail-biter as 2023's champions Matansa (Eleven Tiger) put it all out on the line to defend their title. However, a couple of blunders at the net resulted in Kanoa's 4-2 win.

Matansa drew first blood after a few heated exchanges on the pitch to open the game in the 22nd minute. For the next 15 minutes, Matansa maintained a 1-nil lead over Kanoa until Tyler Omelau got a hold of the ball and tied it all up, 1-1, in the 39th minute.

As the battle of supremacy waged on in the second half, Matansa's Jonne Navarro took back the lead, 2-1, in the 42nd minute.

With Matansa carrying just a 1-goal lead, Kanoa hurriedly sprinted throughout the pitch to find an opening and tie it up once more. It paid off in the 47th minute as Kanoa's Markus Toves connected with their second goal and tied the game up, 2-2.

When it came down to it toward the end of the match, Matansa blew the tie after a couple of mistaken identities. Two consecutive goals were scored in their own goal to give Kanoa the advantage, 4-2.

Matansa could not recover from the blunder as time ran out and handed the championship to Kanoa.

In the third-place match before the finals,

See KANOA on Page 15

NMIFA

Kanoa Football Club in the Marianas Soccer League 1 poses for a group photo after defeating Matansa in the finals last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA

Kanoa Football Club in the Marianas Soccer League 2 poses for a group photo after winning the championship via forfeit last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

J30 tennis tourney underway

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament is underway after the first day of games yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

The weather was hot with the summer sun hanging high in the sky, just as intense competition between junior netters from around the world raged below.

The boys No. 1 in the tourney, Hong Kong's Aidan Lam Meng Bart (world No. 812), blasted through an easy matchup against Japan's Takuto Matsuo, 6-0, 6-1, to open the tourney up.

As for NMI players, June Yu advanced to the next round and racked up his first ITF points after he defeated countryman David Kwon in a tough three-set matchup, 1-6, 6-4, 4-3.

The NMI's Hoo Wang then dominated teammate Hannah Chae, 6-1, 6-2.

LEIGH GASES

The NMI's Hoo Wang goes for a return during her game against NMI's Hannah Chae on the first day of the International Tennis Federation J30 Junior World Ranking Tournament yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

Then, NMI's Irin Chung was eliminated after she lost to Japan's Nonoka Shimizu, 1-6, 1-6. The NMI's Matthew Hwang also lost his match as he was silenced by Hong Kong's Andre Lam Jun Bart, 0-6, 0-6. After, the NMI's Henry Seungwoo Choi lost to Hong Kong's Yik Hin Brandon Wong, 2-6, 2-6. Ryan Jeongwoo Choi also fell to Japan's Mao Tazuru, 0-6, 0-6.

Then, toward the end of the day, the NMI's Siwoo Lee fell to the tourney's No. 2 in the boys division, Japan's Eita Suzuki, 0-6, 0-6, and the NMI's Simon Tang lost to Japan's Shuya Machida, 2-6, 0-6.

In other matches, South

See TOURNEY on Page 15

Tennis: High hopes for Micro Games medals

Long-time NMI National Tennis Team coach Jeff Race is confident of the squad's medal chances in the 2024 Micronesian Games that will be held in Marshall Islands from June 15 to 24, 2024.

"We are definitely going to be in the medal hunt," Race said.

Race is bringing in a full team in the Marshall Islands with 2019 Pacific Games and 2021 Pacific Mini Games medalist Robbie Schorr leading the men's squad and former collegiate standout Isabel Heras taking charge in the women's division. Completing the team are players La Hunn Lam, Colin Ramsey, Siwoo Lee, Hannah Chae, Hoo Wang, and Irin Chung and team manager John Martin Bradley.

The NMI will be back in the tennis competition after missing the 2014 edition of the Micro Games in Pohnpei and following the exclusion of tennis in the calendar of events for the 2018 Micro Games in Yap. The last time NMI players

See MEDALS on Page 15